

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010

Volume 18, Number 3



**Spanish Pistareen
Seville Mint, 1768-71
Reverse Brockage**

Featured in this issue

- Suggested Renaming of Connecticut Varieties
- The "Lord St. Oswald" Pedigree
- Counterfeit 8 Reales
- An Unusual "Old Sol"
- A Pistareen Brockage
- Santa Cristina 8 Reals
- C4 at the ANA World's Fair of Money
- Connecticut Research Assistance Sought
- C4 Election Results
- Plans for the C4 2010 Annual Convention
- Connecticut Copper/Emsworth Token



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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer

Dues are \$25-regular (including 1st class mailing of the Newsletter); \$10 for junior members (under 18).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it's finally here – that moment you've all been awaiting – my final President's Message! I can't believe I've written about 40 of them! C4 officer elections have just come to a conclusion. The new officers will be installed at the end of our annual C4 Business Meeting on Saturday morning of the convention. Be sure to thank the outgoing officers when you see them. These guys have all served more than 10 years on the board, and some considerably longer. Every one of the candidates for office would have done a good job and I thank all of them for their willingness to serve.

Since the last *Newsletter*, C4 was involved with the annual ANA World's Fair of Money, held in Boston this past summer. As a club, we were provided a table on the main bourse floor, and had it continually staffed for the 5 days of the convention. 13 C4 members divided up their time to keep the table manned, and we signed up 15 new members! There were a number of colonial educational events, and a Club meeting early on Saturday morning.

Also, C4 had a major exhibit in the Museum Showcase area. It consisted of six cases of coins, medals and colonial items, arranged chronologically from Hogge Money through to Washington Funeral Medals. There were nine C4 members contributing to the exhibit. I would have liked to open up contributions to the entire membership, but the arrangements were made too last minute to involve more members. There is more on the exhibit elsewhere in this issue.

The Massachusetts Historical Society is located just a short walk from the convention center. Open to the general public, the MHS had a most wonderful display including many great Colonial coin and medal rarities. I visited with a friend and Anne Bentley was kind enough to show us around. What a great collection they have!

September ended and October began with the Whitman Show in Philadelphia. Whitman was kind enough to provide a room for C4 to have a meeting on Saturday morning. Also, your President gave an educational presentation about colonial paper money. A combination of these events with other presentations and floor acquisitions made this a fun convention for me.

Staying in convention mode, this is the convention issue of the *C4 Newsletter*. This should be arriving in your mailbox shortly before we meet in Boston. Chris McCawley, with cataloguers John Agre and Dave Wnuck, have the C4 Auction well under control. As I write, Mike Packard and I are working on the final presentation for our Friday Night Educational Forum. Dennis Wierzba has the room rented and food ordered. C4 Dealers from all over the country are flying in to show their wares. All that remains is for YOU to attend and have fun! If you've been to a C4 Convention, I know you'll be back. If you haven't, you owe it to yourself to be there.

Bringing my final President's Message to a close, I want to thank all of you for these past 10 years. Allowing me to be your president, I've met so many really nice people, made friendships, attended conventions, been involved in research and publications... and much more. I've found that the more active you are, the more fun you have. I still plan to be active – and maybe more so. I am sure that Jim Rosen will bring new energy and ideas, and your C4 Board will continue to make C4 the best specialty club in all of numismatics.

Thank You, Have FUN!
Ray Williams

TAXONOMY CHANGES FOR A FAMILY OF CRUDE CONNECTICUT COPPERS

(Randy Clark)

Introduction:

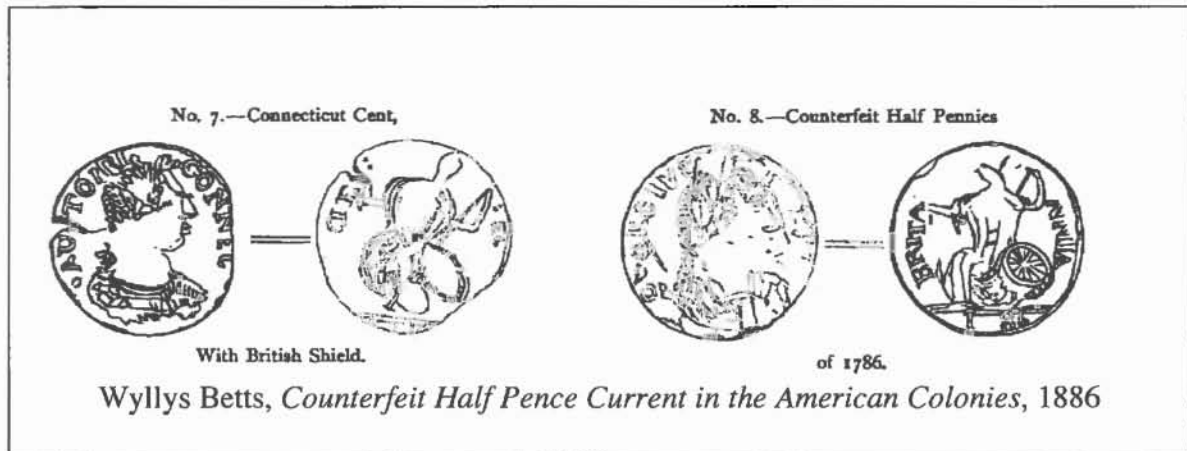
This article proposes a variety designation change for a few crude and very rare Connecticut coppers that were misplaced in the Miller taxonomy in the 1960s. The subject has been reviewed among a small group of specialists and received endorsement. It is being published here to get any remaining feedback before it becomes embedded in an upcoming book on Connecticut copper. The change had been discussed periodically since 2005, but was deferred due to work being done on these crude coins ... and potentially related coppers ... by the late Mike Ringo, *et al.* The material below does not address that group's broader interests of coin origin or linkages to similarly crude counterfeit halfpence. This discussion is limited to placement in the Connecticut listings.

Background:

Successful legitimate coinages of the colonial and confederation eras often attracted unauthorized issues, as seen with the large number of contemporary counterfeit* British halfpence circulating in England and the American colonies/states. Connecticut coppers and other state-legislated coinages appear to have been similarly copied at unauthorized mints, such as Machin's Mills in New York. However, the vast majority of these suspected, unauthorized Connecticut copper issues have been included in the Crosby/Hall/Miller taxonomy, alongside known legitimate issues.

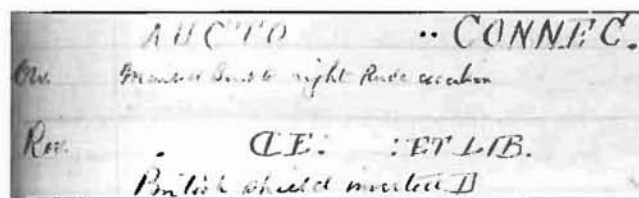
There are several unauthorized Connecticut-type coppers so obviously crude and rare that they were excluded from the main taxonomy as amateurish and potentially modern imitations. For many years, their origin was debated as possibly nineteenth century fantasy pieces of the sort Wyllys Betts would produce. In fact, the first description of two such pieces was published in Betts' 1886 *Counterfeit Half Pence Current in the American Colonies from the Mints of Connecticut and Vermont*. Both were dated 1786 and illustrated as No. 7 (Connecticut cent with British shield) and No. 8 (Counterfeit half pennies) in this document:

*Richard Doty, in his 1982 *The Macmillan Encyclopedic Dictionary of Numismatics* defines the term counterfeit as, "To create false money for private gain by immediate circulation." He further clarifies, "A counterfeit is a copy of a circulating issue, and by intention worth less than it's legal counterpart." He defines the term imitation as "A coin that strongly and intentionally resembles another." and further clarifies, "The motive is not to defraud: coiners of the imitation merely seek as wide and accepting an audience as possible for their wares."



Betts describes No. 7 as “having a small head of negro type facing the right, with the legend . AUCTOIRI . . CONNEC . The reverse shows a mere skeleton for the goddess, and bears a British shield, but with the legend INDE : : ET – the D being reversed.” He did not claim responsibility for creating the pieces, and believed them to be of American origin.

Dr. Thomas Hall, in his unpublished nineteenth century Connecticut copper manuscript, discussed a related coin in his possession which differed in the number of dots (two vs. Betts’ one) before CONNEC. He did not add the coin to his official taxonomy - but simply referred to it as “1786? Betts die from Dr. Maris.” He further mentions “Mr. Betts illustrates by wood cut No. 7 similar if not identical with the above mentioned Obv+Rev” and goes on to state “Do not conform with dies attributed to the hand of Mr. Betts:”



Dr. Thomas Hall, Unpublished Manuscript

It was not until the twentieth century that adjustments were made to accommodate these pieces into the Connecticut taxonomy. In the March 1964 issue of *The Colonial Newsletter*, Edward Barnsley assigned a Connecticut designation of 1786 variety 2.3-T to represent Betts No. 7, based on recommendation from Eric Newman,

received March 28, 1963 in a personal communication. He also assigned 1786 variety 2.4-U to represent another specimen (found by A. D. Hoch in 1963) due to similarity in general appearance with the 2.3-T, but differing "in detail." It is presumed obverse type 2 was chosen because it is defined as mailed bust right with dots in legend.

Although well intentioned, assignment of these obverse varieties into the CT taxonomy under 1786 obverse type 2 was not ideal due to a conflict of definitions, specifically the number and placement of legend dots. The Crosby/Hall/Miller definition of a type 2 obverse has a legend AUCTORI • CONNEC • with the dots located only at the end of each phrase. Conversely, the Betts No. 7 (Barnsley's type 2.3-T) and the newer Hoch specimen (Barnsley's type 2.4-U) exhibited a legend • AUCTORI • • CONNEC • with dots preceding *and* following each phrase.

The Barnsley reverse variety assignments, however, were made consistent with legacy 1786 CT listings, which had previously designated only types A through S. Hence, types T and U were available for use. Barnsley referred to Betts' reverse legend definition for variety 2.3-T, INDE : : ET, but assigned to the more complete reverse legend, INDE : : ET LIB, the variety 2.4-U.

More additions were later made by Barnsley based on a 1975 communication to James Spilman, *et al*, titled "A Dossier on the Four Connecticut Counterfeits Dated 1786." He introduced two discovery specimens of crude CT coppers that were found among A. D. Hoch photographs and assigned them as CT 1786 variety 2.5-V and 1786 variety 2.6-BRI (sometimes referred to as 2.6-W).

The new variety 2.5-V also conflicted with type 2 obverse designations since its legend and punctuation suggested • AUCTORI • •• CONNEC • with an additional dot before the second phrase. The new reverse designation was assigned due to the presence of a final dot, making INDE : : ET LIB• (some details of the legend were obscured). This piece may have been Dr. Hall's "Betts die from Dr. Maris." Note all reverse T, U and V coins have obscured legends (in particular, IN is not clear).

Barnsley's insights into these coins, after the 1975 discovery of variety 2.5-V, are important. Regarding obverse 2.5, he notes, "It appears at first glance to have been struck from the same pair of dies used to strike 2.3-T." Regarding reverses T, U and V, he states, "There is a strong possibility that an optical comparison study of these three reverses will reveal that they are, in fact, all struck from the same die, and their apparent differences are due only to the miserable preservation of miserable striking of miserable planchets."

The newly designated 1786 variety 2.6-BRI added yet another dimension to the puzzle. This new obverse's bust and lettering does not resemble the other three, although the legend appears consistent as • AUCTORI • • CONNEC • (on the discovery specimen,

the first dot and letter A is obscured or not present). Photo overlay analysis gives some indication this obverse may have been reworked into the 2.3-2.4-2.5 obverses (based on bust and CONNEC details), but images available do not have enough resolution to be conclusive. The new reverse, designated BRI, was said by Barnsley to be “similar to but not exactly like” Betts No. 8, illustrated in 1886 as **BRITA NIA**. If the BRI reverse were to be found identical to Betts No. 8, it would represent a Connecticut obverse muled with a counterfeit halfpenny reverse within this grouping of crude coppers.

Barnsley’s assignments were listed again by Jeff Rock in the May 1991 issue of *The Colonial Newsletter*. Although stable, these designations were being periodically reviewed for appropriateness, with no definitive position taken pending broader investigations into newly discovered, and potentially related, crude coppers.

Later Discoveries:

In 2005, as part of Stacks’ sale of the John Ford Connecticut copper collection, a new obverse discovery piece was made known. Casually listed by the cataloger as another 1786 type 2.3-T, the coin is actually a new type of • **AUCTORI** • • **CONNEC** •, paired with the now familiar Barnsley reverse, with similar legend weaknesses but a clear date. It is distinguished by a long tailed **R** in **AUCTORI** and more ornate mail, wreath and hair details than early Barnsley-listed obverses. Character spacing in the legend differs from prior obverses as well; but, the same sharp nose and pointed lips indicate a common hand was involved in the Barnsley and Ford specimens.

In August 2010, Syd Martin located another new specimen very similar to the Ford obverse, with shared obverse legend and bust details (including long **R**) paired with the same reverse as Barnsley and Ford examples. While obverse mail and hair details are the same as Ford, very different nose and lip features are seen on this new example – more reminiscent of the Barnsley 2.6 obverse. Photo overlay shows the Ford and Martin specimens align perfectly in obverse bust and legend details, implying nose and lips were reworked between striking. In addition, an important new reverse characteristic is seen on this specimen ... a backwards **N** in **INDE**. All prior reverse T specimens had obscured **N** details in this area - while **D** was clearly backward, no indications were noted that suggested other letters may have been similarly mirrored. Based on the Martin specimen, it is now suspected reverse T legends were cut as **INDE** : : **ET LIB**•.

Discussion of Changes:

To straighten out the inconsistency of having assigned these obverses to 1786 type 2, a solution is proposed to reassign these obverses to a unique variety type.

The first step is to see what consolidation of these different obverse and reverse examples is possible. As Barnsley predicted, optical comparison of obverses 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 show they are, in fact, the same die. Mike Ringo, who extensively studied these crude coppers, stated in his 1999 *Coinage of the Americas Conference*, "There has since been much confusion among Connecticut specialists, because Barnsley also gave Miller numbers to three other similar examples of these crudely executed Connecticut counterfeits that he knew of, namely 2.4-U, 2.5-V, and 2.6-BRI. Upon closer examination, however, it is apparent that this obverse is a reworked 2.3 die. Also, the three reverses (T, U, and V) are all the same die, so the designations of these three varieties should be reconsidered."

Obverse Analysis and Consolidation:

The legacy Barnsley 1786 type 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 obverses – as well as the two recent discovery specimens – are being reassigned to a new obverse type, Miller 8.x, to avoid conflicting with the Crosby/Hall/Miller 1786 obverse type 2 legend definition.

The Barnsley legacy obverses 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 are being consolidated into one obverse subtype, Miller 8.1. Refer to the following plates for images. The easiest obverse to interpret is specimen 8.1b (type 8.1, specimen b). It shows the most complete legend without errors in lettering or ornamentation, • AUCTORI • • CONNEC •. Image #1 (8.1b) on the following overlay plates shows this obverse next to Image #2, a trace of its details. Specimen 8.1a, Image #3, shows signs of chatter or double strike with respect to 8.1b, as seen in blundered ORI • details, and a badly damaged planchet. However, optical overlay analysis shows it is the same die used for both obverses. Image #4 shows the trace from Image #2 overlaid on Image #3. Head and bust details align, as do the wreath and most legend details. However, in order to address the blundered ORI • details, the overlaid trace needs to be rotated 5° clockwise, as seen in Image #5. While this leaves all other legend and bust details misaligned, it verifies the die was double struck or chattered during striking.

The other legacy obverse, specimen 8.1c, shows double strike details in the bust, nose and dot before CONNEC with respect to 8.1b. Again, optical overlay shows the same die was used. Image #6 (8.1c) is supplemented with Image #2 traces to form Images #7 and #8. Image #7 aligns bust, facial details and right legend, but shows misalignment with left legend and wreath leaves. To achieve alignment in these areas, the trace must be rotated 10° counter-clockwise.

The two recent discovery coins form a different group and will be assigned the next sequential subtype, 8.2, since they share a reverse with Barnsley legacy obverses of type 8.1. Analysis of these obverses can be seen in Images #9 to #16. In the top sequence, a trace is made of the specimen 8.2a and applied to specimen 8.2b. In the

bottom sequence, a trace is made of 8.2b and applied to 8.2a. These overlays show the two are highly derivative, aligning in legend and bust details, but differ substantially in facial details, implying significant recutting. While a study of which obverse came first has yet to be done, it is clear these two obverses are different from legacy Barnsley obverses. The idea of splitting the 8.2a and 8.2b coins into different types was discussed due to the dramatic facial differences; however, the rules for how much rework is needed to result in a new type are not always clear. In an effort to keep expansion of these crude counterfeits at a minimum, it was decided to keep a single designation for both, noting the differences in descriptive text.

Lastly, the Barnsley 2.6 obverse (paired with British type reverse) remains unique and will be assigned a third subtype, 1786 obverse 8.3. Stylistically, it shares a facial outline similar to the type 8.2b specimen and legend similarity to the type 8.1 specimens, but overlay analysis of common features is inconclusive at this time.

Reverse Analysis and Consolidation:

Looking at consolidation of reverse varieties, similar results are found. Optical comparisons of Barnsley reverses T, U and V (also the recent discovery specimens) show all are from the same die, type T. Overlay Images #17 to #26 show how this conclusion was reached.

Image #17 is the specimen Te reverse (type T, specimen e), which shows strong detail in the central figure and the backwards N. Image #18 is the Te trace. When this trace is applied to the specimen Tc reverse it results in Image #20, showing good alignment in the D in INDE, effigy details, exergue and E in ETLIB. Note the small trace line under the branch hand, which aligns with the bottom of the armpit. While the Tc coin was doubled in obverse features, no obvious signs of doubling are seen on the reverse.

However, more mixed alignment results are seen comparing the Te reverse trace with the three remaining specimens, Ta, Tb and Td. Applying the Te overlay to the specimen Td reverse (Images #21 and #22) shows good alignment on effigy details and exergue but shows misalignment in left legend NDE and a shift in position of the branch hand with respect to the effigy. Unlike Image #20, the small trace line under the branch hand now aligns with the top of the effigy armpit. It is also not clear if the Td N is backwards (as it is on the Te coin).

Applying the Te reverse trace to Ta (Images #23 and #24) and Tb #2 (Images #25 and #26) show the same alignment issues found on the Td reverse ... notably the misalignment of branch hand and left legend NDE. Note the right legend does align reasonably well, as seen also with the Tc coin. One is led to suspect a progression of die rework is at hand, although it needs to be remembered several of the corresponding

obverses had signs of doubling or chatter not obvious on the reverses. While a study of which reverse came first has yet to be done, it is clear these five reverses are struck from a common die and will be consolidated as 1786 reverse type T.

Using optical overlay analysis, the 1786 Connecticut reverse known as BRI and the Betts No. 8 counterfeit halfpence reverse are also shown to use the same die. The designation BRI will be retained as a good way to clarify the reverse has a **BRITA NNIA** legend instead of the usual Connecticut **INDE ETLIB** legend. Type 8.3-BRI (Barnsley 2.6-BRI) is the only known pairing of an **AUCTORI CONNEC** type obverse with a **BRITA NNIA** type reverse. Note: this specimen reverse shows doubling in exergue and date. Since the 1786 Connecticut 8.3-BRI and Betts No. 8 share a common **BRITA NNIA** reverse, the Betts No. 8 obverse will be included in the detailed descriptions as a counterfeit halfpence obverse muled with a Connecticut reverse.

Betts No. 8 was later assigned an additional name by Robert Vlack in 1974. In his *Early English Counterfeit Halfpence Struck in America* plate, Vlack assigned designation 16-86A to describe Betts No. 8 (i.e. obverse 16 and reverse 86A, since it is dated 1786). He also assigned the designation CT-86A to the Connecticut obverse (CT 8.3) paired with the 86A reverse (CT BRI).

Summary:

The decision to have included these coins in the formal Crosby/Hall/Miller taxonomy can be second-guessed, of course. They remain dubious examples of Connecticut coppers, but are very rare and stimulate interesting conversation. As Edward Barnsley chose to include them in 1964, and as he is a highly respected member of the Connecticut research community, it seems better to adjust his placement in the series rather than remove the coins entirely.

One interesting note on these specimens is the prevalence of strike anomalies, which appear to be due to either chatter or double striking. This results in minor variations in legend and bust details, which overlay analysis can accommodate as part of positional variations. This appears to imply a less sophisticated strike process was used than would be expected from a screw press. Future analysis needs to investigate if an alternative process, such as hammer striking, was used.

Proposed Taxonomy Revisions:

- 1) 1786 obverse varieties 2.1 and 2.2 remain unchanged.
- 2) 1786 obverse variety 8.1 assigned to consolidated varieties 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5.
- 3) 1786 obverse variety 8.2 assigned to both recent discovery specimens.

- 4) 1786 obverse variety 8.3 assigned to the obverse previously known as 2.6.
- 5) 1786 reverse variety T assigned to varieties T, U, V and recent discoveries.
- 6) 1786 reverse variety BRI kept as analogous to Betts No. 8 reverse (Vlack 86A).

Known Specimens/Combinations:

Obverse	Reverse	Comments
8.1a	Ta	Barnsley 2.3-T, Betts No. 7 (private)
8.1b	Tb	Barnsley 2.4-U (ANS)
8.1c	Tc	Barnsley 2.5-V (Newman)
8.2a	Td	Stacks Ford 2.3-T (private)
8.2b	Te	Recent Discovery (Martin)
8.3	BRI	Barnsley 2.6-BRI, Vlack CT-86A (Newman)

Data sheets for each obverse and reverse are appended at the end of this article.

Why are these sometimes known as Bungtowns ?

Eric Newman, in his 1976 *English and Bungtown Halfpence*, states, “The expression “Bungtown coppers” was originally intended and used to apply to counterfeit English halfpence produced during the 1784-85 period in North Swansea, Massachusetts. It was quickly expanded by New Englanders so that by 1787, it meant any counterfeit halfpence as indicated by its first mention in writing. By the early nineteenth-century its meaning broadened and it was used as a comical expression to refer to any worthless or unacceptable copper coin circulating in America.” Bungtown should not be interpreted as referring to a specific mint.

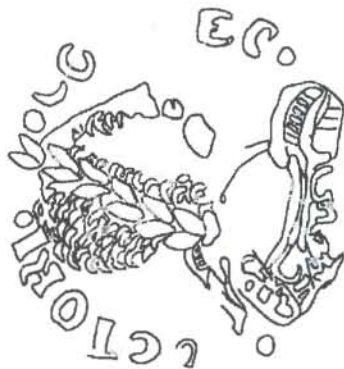
Association of these specific crude imitation Connecticut coins with the term “bungtown” was made by Walter Breen in his 1988 *Complete Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins* as the description for coins #761 (2.3-T), #762 (2.4-U) and #975 (Vlack 16-86A). He classified 761 and 762 under the heading “Bungtown Mints (North Swansea, Mass. ?)” and 975 under an expanded section entitled *The Bungtown Mints*. Since then, the term “bungtown” has been used colloquially when referring to these crude coppers, as well as a generic term for crude, low volume counterfeit coins and minting locations.

Image Credits:

Images for this paper are courtesy of Stacks, ANS, Mike Ringo, Syd Martin, Eric Newman and, Walter Breen’s *Encyclopedia of US and Colonial Coins*



1) 8.1b Obverse



2) 8.1b Obverse Trace



3) 8.1a Obverse



4) 8.1a Obverse with 8.1b Overlay



5) 8.1a Obverse with 8.1b Overlay Rotated 5° C'W



1) 8.1b Obverse



2) 8.1b Obverse Trace



6) 8.1c Obverse



7) 8.1c Obverse with 8.1b Overlay



8) 8.1c Obverse with 8.1b Overlay Rotated 10° CW



9) 8.2a Obverse



10) 8.2a Obverse Trace



11) 8.2b Obverse



12) 8.2b Obverse with 8.2a Overlay



13) 8.2b Obverse



14) 8.2b Obverse Trace



15) 8.2a Obverse



16) 8.2a Obverse with 8.2b Overlay



17) Te Reverse



18) Te Reverse Trace



19) Tc Reverse



20) Tc Reverse with Te Overlay



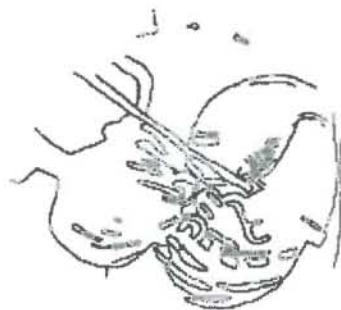
21) Td Reverse



22) Td Reverse with Te Overlay



17) Te Reverse



18) Te Reverse Trace



23) Ta Reverse



24) Ta Reverse with Te Overlay



25) Tb Reverse



26) Tb Reverse with Te Overlay

1786 Obverse 8.1

Bust Right	Mailed	• AUCTORI •	• CONNEC •
-------------------	---------------	--------------------	-------------------

Deviations between specimens appear due to strike nuances. Crudely cut. Hair made with scalloped details. Twelve leaves in wreath. Scalloped curls on face side of wreath. Sharp nose and pursed lips. Mail comprised of horizontal, long looped shoulder armor with vertical plate details underneath and on chest. Fillet ends opposite **A** in **AUCTORI**. **AUC** closely spaced. **U** leans right. **C**'s crescent shaped. **T** high, leaning left. Tail of **R** close to **I**, which leans left. **CONNEC** close to edge dentils. Large dots in legend. Break develops on nose near eye.



8.1a) Previously designated Obverse 2.3 and Betts No. 7
Double Struck, **R** in **AUCTORI** doubled



8.1b) Previously designated Obverse 2.4



8.1c) Previously designated Obverse 2.5
Double struck bust, third dot and nose

Varieties: 8.1-T (aka. Betts No. 7)

1786 Obverse 8.2

Bust Right	Mailed	• AUCTORI •	• CONNEC •
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Curled hair features, parted in the middle, outlined at top. Seven leaves in wreath ending with a large leaf on top. Prominent curl on neck under ear. Fillet ends are opposite A and first dot. Mail comprised of arcing shoulder features with a series of looped details. AUC widely spaced. Wide R, with very long tail. I distant from R and leaning right. CONN widely spaced. Specimen “a” shows sharp nose and protruding pointed lips. Specimen “b” shows blunt nose and recessed lips.



8.2a) Recent Specimen (Obverse 2.3 in Stacks Ford)



8.2b) Recent Specimen

Varieties: 8.2-T

1786 Obverse 8.3 (aka. Vlack CT)

Bust Right	Mailed	• AUCTORI •	• CONNEC •
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Dot and A before UCTORI not confirmed. Small dot after AUCTORI, larger dot before and after CONNEC. Radial hair features. Seven leaves in wreath. Crude eye oddly placed. Nose details rounded. Fillets thin. Mail with conventional shoulder plates, jagged frill at right. OR widely spaced. R with tail close to I, which is low.



Previously designated Obverse 2.6

Varieties: 8.3-BRI (aka. Vlack CT-86A)

1786 Reverse T

INDE :

: ETLIB :

Effigy leans backward from the waist. Shield leans left with Britannia detail. Long thin pole arm. Short branch hand points at **E** in **INDE**. Branch with small, round leaves. **D** always backwards. **N** backwards on specimen “e” but not confirmed on others. Double date line. Scant to no globe details. Dies always weak at lower left corner, obscuring beginning of legend and any prior ornamentation. Specimen “d” clearly shows a final colon. Specimens “c” and “e” show rotation of **Δ** and branch hand with respect to effigy compared to other specimens.



Ta) Previously designated Reverse T and Betts No. 7



Tb) Previously designated Reverse U



Tc) Previously designated Reverse V



Td) Recent Specimen (Reverse T in Stacks Ford)



Te) Recent Specimen

Varieties: 8.1-T (aka. Betts No. 7), 8.2-T

1786 Reverse BRI (aka. Vlack 86A)

BRITA

NNIA

Reverse figure seated on globe, seven radial stripes on shield without fimbriation, **BRITA** **NNIA** lettering closely spaced. Effigy more erect than with reverse T. **BRITA** lettering poorly placed, **IT** low. Shield leans dramatically left with Britannia detail. Crude, wide pole arm. Long neck. Short branch hand points at **A** in **BRITA**. Branch long with narrow leaf (spike) details. Double date line. Scant to no globe details.



Paired with CT Obverse 8.3



Paired with Vlack 16



Paired with Vlack 16

Varieties: 8.3-BRI (aka. Vlack CT-86A), Betts No. 8 (aka. Vlack 16-86A)

1786 Obverse Vlack 16

GEORGIVS

III REX

Muled with Connecticut reverse type BRI. Crude armored bust right. **GEORGIVS III REX**. Broad face. Seven leaves in wreath. Arcing hair detail. Small, pointed lips. Samples appear weak at lower left and right obscuring beginning and end of obverse legend. Die break vertical from S down through back of head to neck.



Paired with Vlack 86A



Paired with Vlack 86A

Varieties: Betts No. 8 (aka. Vlack 16-86A).

THE OLDEST COLONIAL COIN PEDIGREE? THE “LORD ST. OSWALD” COLONIAL COINS

(Jeff Rock)

Researching colonial coins has always been fun, but a dealer seldom has significant amounts of free time to devote to that part of the hobby, and occasionally some interesting pieces just get “held back” for further research, sometimes for several years. One of the coins that has kept me up for hours on end recently is a New Jersey copper. Not because it is a very rare variety, or because it has wonderful mint luster...but because of a handwritten note on an envelope.

Ah, the Devil is in the details. The coin in question is a 1787 New Jersey, Maris 39-a, a slightly scarce variety (currently listed as an R-4), in high-end VF/nearly EF or thereabout condition, with good color and just light evidence of circulation. (Figure 1) Not a bad looking coin, but certainly not one that a specialist would spend hours upon hours researching. Except for the envelope. The coin was purchased a few years ago as part of a collection of New Jersey coppers, many of which were purchased from the late Mike Ringo in the 1980's and early 1990's; the coins had been kept in their original holders (always a nice bonus when collectors hang on to this sort of paper ephemera, as it really does add value to a coin). In Mike's distinct handwriting, the front of the envelope is noted with the usual attribution, a penciled number (“#58”) perhaps being a lot number for one of his price lists or an inventory control number for one of the shows that he frequently set up at (I haven't been able to match the number directly to one of his published price lists though). (Figure 2) But the back of the envelope is where the story really begins.

On that side is written, again in Mike's hand, “ex-Lord Oswald.” (Figure 3)

Early US collectors know of the legendary (the word used here deliberately) St. Oswald collection – the source of numerous copper and silver coins of 1794 and 1795, including coins that literally shattered record books and Condition Censuses – for instance, a pair of Uncirculated 1794 silver dollars, and 1794 and 1795 half cents and large cents with full mint red were included in the St. Oswald holdings. The story, passed down from the time the coins existence was first published, became pretty much set in stone, and the pedigree became legend. In cataloguing a Lord St. Oswald large cent in the John W. Adams collection, Q. David Bowers wrote: “For nearly 170 years the coin resided in the St. Oswald family until it was sold in a London auction at Christie's in 1964. Offered at the same time were other United States coins dated 1794 and 1795, including two Mint State 1794 dollars, which presumably were obtained during a visit to America by an ancestor in 1795. The cataloguer of the coins, Baldwin's, related to the present writer that the pieces were brought loose in a pasteboard box to Christie's, along with carefully-attributed ancient pieces. It was believed that the United States coins had little value! Fortunately, the pieces had been carefully preserved from handling or other deleterious effects over the years, with the result that the auction appearance presented to the numismatic fraternity dazzling Uncirculated examples of 1794 and 1795 copper and

silver coins which had been previously unknown. Bidders from both sides of the Atlantic intensely competed, with the result that numerous price records were set. Far from being unimportant, the United States coins were the financial highlight of the event!"

Walter Breen quickly concluded that some of the pieces may have been struck specifically for the visit of Lord St. Oswald, especially a 1795 silver dollar, Bolender 5 variety that has all the earmarks of a specially-made proof coin – and since they were presentation pieces in Walter's mind, he needed a reason for them to be presented and someone to present them to. The visit of a British Nobleman certainly fit the bill, and without any further research, Breen – and pretty much everyone after for the next few decades – closed the case, making any Lord St. Oswald pedigree immediately the oldest and most important one that a collector in this country could hope to acquire (indeed, one of the 1794 large cents, Sheldon 67, was later in the Norweb collection and one of the 1794 dollars was in the Gilhousen collection, both with catalogue descriptions that trumpet the unrivaled nature of the pedigree chain – from the US Mint to Major the Lord St. Oswald, held in that nobleman's family for nearly two centuries, finally sold at the Christie's sale mentioned above).



Figure 1. New Jersey M39-a

Unfortunately, the story was not quite as straightforward as it seemed. Researcher, and fellow C4 Founder, Michael Hodder discovered – and published in the Fall, 1994 issue of *The Asylum*, the journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, the bombshell that Lord St. Oswald had not been born until 1916! That was painfully obvious with a little research, as St. Oswald's full name was Major Rowland Denys Guy Winn, M.C. – the "M.C." standing for Military Cross, an honor that was awarded to soldiers starting in WORLD WAR ONE, and an award that was only started in 1916. Clearly something was wrong here, and Hodder was the right person to ferret out this information (the late Jack Collins, who was working on his 1794 Dollar book, was responsible for getting Hodder to track down this information).

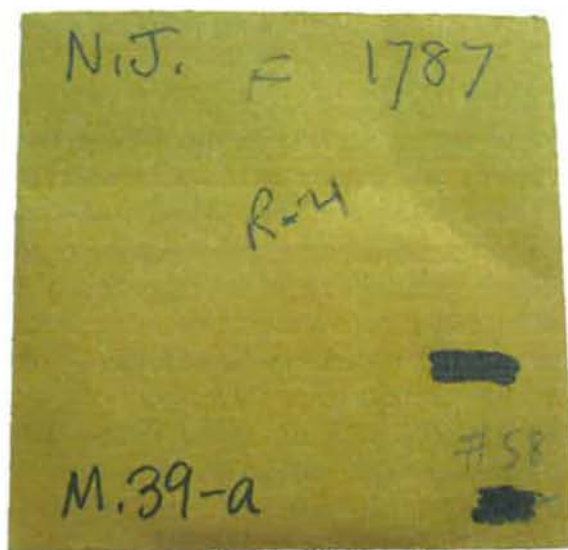


Figure 2. Obverse, Ringo Envelope

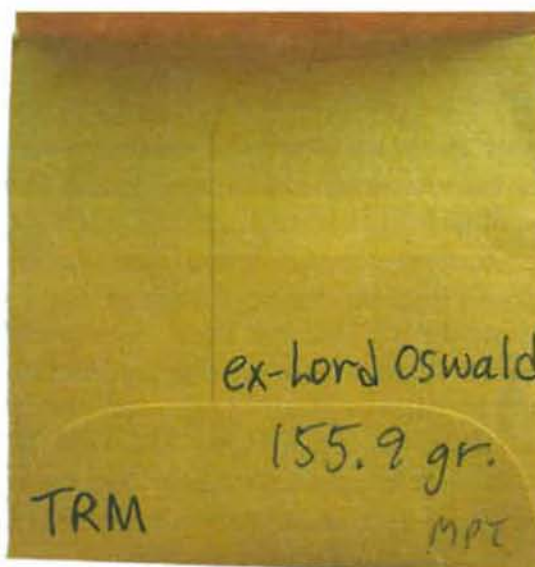


Figure 3. Reverse, Ringo Envelope

Major Winn, the Fourth Baron St. Oswald, was born in 1916 and died in 1984, and was a colorful war correspondent and a soldier in both World War Two and Korea, winning the M.C. in that latter war, and afterwards leading the political life expected of a man born to his position. Clearly, this Major the Lord St. Oswald – the only member of the family to have this specific title – was not at the Philadelphia Mint a century and a few decades before he was actually born! Nor was he a collector of coins, though he did have an interest in aboriginal art and other areas. His name was given in the sale, as the owner of the material being sold. Nowhere in the catalogue was it suggested that he was the person who had visited the Mint in 1795 and obtained the coins directly, but that didn't stop people from thinking that was the case, especially as it made more sense that whoever had such special coins presented to them must have been someone important – a British war hero with an impressive sounding title was a perfect fit. This was a situation where people tried reading between the lines and collecting “facts” and somehow ended up with $2 + 2 = 5$ as a result!

While there were ancestors of Major Winn who could have been responsible for acquiring the coins, none was actually a “Lord St. Oswald.” One, also named Major Sir (not Lord!) Rowland Winn was an obvious possibility – the same name and all – but he was born in 1775 and would have only been 20 years old at the time these coins were struck; moreover he was in poor health, and probably not someone who would have risked a trans-Atlantic passage in time of war (indeed his health was so bad that he was dead by age 30); nothing in the family history suggests that he ever went to America or was a collector of anything. Another relative, Charles Winn, was known to have collected coins (especially ancients), and he may have been the source of these pieces

(especially since many of the ancients consigned to the Christie's sale were "carefully attributed" according to Dave Bowers) – but he wasn't born until 1796, again making it impossible for him to have obtained them directly from the Mint in any kind of presentation ceremony, unless it was *in utero*.

The only thing that can be safely stated is that the U.S. coins were NOT obtained directly from the Mint by a prominent member of the St. Oswald family, though they could have been by some other relative in the family and kept as mementos (much like most of us today have a handful of small change from whatever foreign country we visit), and which eventually passed into the Winn Family collection itself. According to Hodder's research, the coins were probably acquired by a member of the Winn family as early as the 1820's, but there is currently no evidence of when, where or why that occurred, though someone digging through the archival material at Nostell Priory, the family home, may be able to find out more. It may be that the coins had no connection at all to the early Winn family and were bought by some collector in the family from another source. We do know that the coins were in that collection in 1964 (and apparently for quite some time before that), so calling them "Lord St. Oswald" pieces is still accurate, but the Lord in question lived from 1916-1984, and he was the last British owner of these coins, not the first! Hodder deserves the last word on this subject: "Any and all claims of illustrious pedigree and unbroken descent from the United States Mint down to today, the sort that auction cataloguers are so fond of, are unsupported statements at best, poppycock and drivel at worst."

OK, mystery...well, not solved, but at least less mysterious. But that doesn't explain the presence of colonials in the St. Oswald collection. No colonials were included in the 1964 Christie's sale, but that sale was not the totality of numismatic material owned by the family. The February 18, 1992 sale contained another group of U.S. coins from the St. Oswald collection, 15 lots containing 46 different coins. The colonials were the majority of coins, 41 pieces, but were far less valuable, and were nearly all offered in group lots, usually realizing near their estimated price ranges. The five pieces of U.S. coinage (one 1794 half cent, one 1793 Chain cent and three 1794 large cents, all in very high grade, the 1794 issues with varying amounts of original mint red) were offered individually, and each of these realized substantially more than the price estimates given in the catalogue, anywhere from triple to eight times the estimate! The Half Cent and Large Cents from this second St. Oswald sale quickly found homes in leading collections, and – remember, this was 1992 – the colonials were mostly forgotten.

So forgotten that it took several months just to track down the sale! This writer, who was actively collecting at the time, vaguely remembered it, and tore through his library, convinced it was held in America, maybe via Bowers and Merena or Stack's. Consulting with a number of leading collectors, cataloguers, researchers and dealers yielded no clue, and it was only through the elephantine memory of some of the large cent community, specifically Bill Noyes, that got me to the right country and date! Locating the catalogue itself was no easy task, but in the end it was rewarding, as it solved the Ringo attribution question and actually suggested something more interesting. The introduction to these lots in the Christie's sale is as follows:

“The Property of a Nobleman

The following ten lots were among a parcel of coins removed from Nostell Priory, Wakefield, Yorkshire. An important group of U.S. coins from the same property were sold in these rooms October 13, 1964. All the coins are in better than average condition, having been collected during the early part of the 19th century by a member of the Winn family.”

Whether the Christie’s cataloguer had new information (perhaps directly from the family itself, as this sale was several years after Major the Lord St. Oswald had passed away) or was just following the traditional dating, we see in print that the coins were “collected during the early part of the 19th century,” and specifically by a member of the family. That “early 19th century” part is later than the 1795 terminal date of the coins themselves, and one would expect that if the coins were collected even as late as 1800 that there would be a different mix of coins included – especially pieces of later dates, and the earlier dated pieces would not be in such choice conditions. Of course, the coins could have been saved in 1795 or thereabouts, and then acquired by someone in the Winn family years or decades later, with Michael Hodder suggesting roughly 1820 as a possibility if Charles was the Winn responsible.

With the usual reserved British cataloguing, the lot descriptions themselves are somewhat terse. As most collectors have not seen (let alone heard of) this sale, I will give the full and exact lot descriptions of the colonials as they were published in the catalogue itself. Grading was of the usual British standard where something there called “fine” might be anywhere from our VF to EF and “extremely fine” usually an Uncirculated piece that was toned (coins with full red are begrudgingly given an Unc. grade, but they really don’t like that word much, as many of the pieces with a lot of mint red in the first St. Oswald sale were still called “extremely fine”); British spelling has been retained, for “flavour:”

- Lot 251: **Massachusetts**, Oak Tree Twopence, 1662, *creased, fine*
- Lot 252: **American Plantations Token**, James II Farthing token, undated (1688), straight 4, *light clip between 9 and 10 o'clock on reverse otherwise extremely fine for issue*
- Lot 253: **Wood's Hibernia Coinage**, Halfpennies (4), and DEI GRATIA Farthing, all 1723, *very fine -- extremely fine with some original mint lustre* (5)
- Lot 254: **Hibernia-Voce Populi**, Halfpennies (3), all 1760, normal type, VOOE POPULI type, and P in front of face, *all very fine or better* (3)
- Lot 255: **Connecticut**, coppers (9), 1785, bust facing right, *metal flaws*, 1787 (7) bust facing left, one horned bust variety, 1788, bust facing right, and **New Jersey** (4), three 1787, other illigible, *average fine* (13)

Lot 256: **New Jersey**, St. Patrick coinage Halfpenny, and Farthings (3), one Farthing without brass plug on reverse, *very fine*, others with brass, *very good -- fine* (4)

Lot 257: **New York, Nova Eboracs**, Halfpenny, 1787, head right, *rev.* figure seated right, *off centre, very fine*

Lot 258: **Nova Constellatio**, copper tokens (2), 1783, large US, pointed rays, *fine*, 1785, pointed rays, *very fine*, **Massachusetts**, Cent (2), 1787, arrows in left talon, 1788, period, *very fine* (4)

Lot 259: **Virginia**, Halfpenny, 1793, *very good*, **London Elephant**, Halfpenny token, undated (1664), *fair*, **Hibernia - Voce Populi**, Halfpennies (2) both normal type, 1760, *fine*, **Massachusetts**, Cent, 1788, period, *very fine*, **New Jersey** (2), 1786 and 1787, *fine*, **Vermont**, 1787, bust right, *pierced, fine* (8)

Lot 260: **Washington Piece**, "Liberty and Security" Penny 1795, uniformed bust of Washington right, *rev.* eagle over shield, date below, lettered edge "AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESSED OF ALL NATIONS" (Baker. 32), *a neatly struck coin, apart from a small spot of verdigris behind Washington's head the surfaces are problem free, about extremely fine with some original lustre on the reverse, extremely rare.* The Garrett specimen, sale 4, March 25-26 1981, lot 1730, was graded Very Good, and sold for \$800. The catalogue stated about eight specimens were known to exist, "of which just two or three are in high grades." This specimen, acquired at the beginning of the last century, is offered at public sale for the first time, and certainly must rank as one of the finest examples known.

The collection is interesting for what it is as much as for what it isn't. The highest grade piece is an "extremely fine" (again, probably meaning an Uncirculated grade level in this country) Plantation token – which, assuming it was an original and not one of the later Matthew Young restrikes that found its way into the collection at a later date – would be one of the oldest pieces in the group, suggesting that it did not circulate much in the century or so it was around prior to being collected. The Hibernias (1723) and Washington penny (1795) are both described as having original luster, the latter not too surprising since it would be of the same date as most of the U.S. coinage and would have presumably not been in circulation for long, if at all. The Hibernias in high grade are a bit surprising, as they were struck 70-odd years before, and one would expect them to have been used in that time. Of course, the Plantation token, Hibernias and even the Washington piece were all issues made in England, and it is conceivable that they were collected as part of a British and Irish collection, not as part of an American visit by any early collector – in nearly two centuries of storage it is certainly possible that someone knew enough about coins to put these issues together with the American pieces. Or perhaps the high grade of those earlier pieces suggests that they were not very popular in circulation – and some shopkeeper may have been pleased to pawn off those "unwanted" things on an unsuspecting Brit!

The collection gives a very interesting look at what might have been in circulation in the 1790's – remember that none of the U.S. coins in the St. Oswald collection had a date past 1795 and, given the superlative condition of all of the copper and silver U.S.

coinage it is likely that someone did specifically save them in or very near that date. What is striking is that this group of colonials DOES have the appearance of being an actual collection of sorts – that is, someone went to some effort to save everything that looked different, possibly pulled directly from circulation and saved. This is even more likely if the person who collected them traveled through more than just one city or state, as there is a very large variety of coinages, with distinct design types. The absence of any sort of counterfeit British or Irish coinage (which would still have been in circulation, in some quantity, until after the turn of the century) suggests that this wasn't a random group that was tossed in a box, as one would expect many of those ubiquitous counterfeits to have been included in any sort of random assortment. There are also no French or Spanish pieces which would have made up a good portion of what was in circulation in the late 18th or early 19th century, another telling absence that suggests that whoever saved these pieces notably excluded things that were clearly foreign, with the exception of Irish pieces. Of course, there could have been examples of those issues saved and they could have been moved to other parts of the coin collection at some point in time – something we just won't ever know. Regardless, what we have looks surprisingly like a collection that was specifically put together to have a wide variety of different design types. In detail, the St. Oswald colonials are as follows:

- 1 1662 Oak Tree twopence, lightly bent, one of the lowest grade pieces in the group, suggesting a long circulation, consistent with its date
- 1 1667 St. Patrick Halfpenny
- 3 1667 St. Patrick Farthings, including one without a brass splasher; given the wide variety of types in the St. Pat farthing series, one wonders if these were noticeably different varieties, all the farthing seemingly well-used
- 1 1672-1694(?) Elephant token in very low grade – though the grade assigned by the cataloguer may be partially due to the weak strike often seen on the type
- 1 1688 Plantation token
- 4 1723 Hibernia halfpennies
- 1 1723 Hibernia farthing
- 5 1760 Voce Populi halfpennies, including a VOOE and a "P" in front of face as distinct design types; the Voce Populi series replete with many obviously different portrait and design styles
- 1 Virginia halfpenny (1773, not 1793 as in the catalogue, of course), lower grade than the state coinages – but struck nearly a quarter century before, and if it had been in circulation the whole time, one would expect it to be well used
- 2 Nova Constellatio coppers, one 1783, one 1785, again, very obviously different design types
- 1 1785 Connecticut Copper
- 7 1787 Connecticut Coppers, including a Horned Bust (Miller 4-L) that would be easily distinguishable; given the huge number of 1787 Connecticut varieties, these could all be distinctly different design types, Mailed and Draped busts, etc.
- 1 1788 Connecticut Copper
- 6 New Jersey Coppers, 1 dated 1786, 2 dated 1787, the others undated but possibly very different design types as well
- 3 Massachusetts Cents, 1 dated 1787, 2 dated 1788

- 1 1787 Vermont copper, holed, but if this was pulled from circulation then the hole apparently had no affect on its usage as a coin
- 1 1787 Nova Eborac copper
- 1 1795 Washington Liberty & Security Penny

The lack of duplication is certainly striking! One really wishes for photographs or more detailed cataloguing of the coins, as it may show that the areas where there could be duplication – especially the 1787 Connecticut Coppers and the New Jersey Coppers – could actually be different types that would have been easily distinguished (not just varieties with minute differences that only a specialist would appreciate). Indeed, only a couple of types that one might reasonably expect to find in circulation at the time are noticeably absent (extreme rarities like Higley coppers, Date Under Plow Beam New Jersey's and the like would have been a rare sight, given how few survive). Major types missing from this small group are any Rosa Americana pieces (which may have looked too much like a regular issue British piece and thus not saved – or these may not have circulated much at this late date with their inflated values relative to the Hibernia coppers), a 1786 Connecticut (which may have looked too much like a 1787, especially as many have only partially visible dates), a Head Left New Jersey copper, a Massachusetts Half cent of any date, a Landscape Vermont copper as well as the other major Vermont types of 1786 Mailed Bust Left and a 1788 Mailed Bust Right, a Fugio Copper and any of the later token issues or early Washingtonia (which may again have been rejected as looking too much like the British Conder tokens many of them were – or not yet in circulation, since things like the Talbot, Allum & Lee cents would have just been produced).

Viewing the collection as a whole, it certainly does have the appearance of being specifically formed. Even if we never know who exactly collected the “Lord St. Oswald” coins, we can be reasonably certain that it was someone in or near the year 1795 (given the absence of later dates and the high quality of specimens dated 1793, 1794 and 1795 in the regular coinage series), and probably someone that visited the United States (as it would have been difficult to acquire such a wide array otherwise). It also seems that the person responsible was either already a collector attuned to the differences in coins or someone who looked at them enough to notice that certain pieces were quite unlike others. To my mind, anyone who was able to assemble a group like the above – even if they were pulled directly from circulation – is someone who qualifies as a *bona fide* collector.

The question remains – do any of the other 45 “Lord St. Oswald” colonials that were offered in the Christie's 1992 sale still exist with their pedigree information? The prices, other than the one 1795 Washington piece, were reasonable, and it is possible that many of them were sold either by Mike Ringo or other dealers of the time. If anyone has information on these, it would be a really interesting project to try and get them all photographed. We might learn a lot – not just about the collection itself, but about what was in circulation at the time. It's also pretty neat that so many colonials remained in circulation even after the formation of the first United States mint in Philadelphia!

****THE SPANISH-AMERICAN CORNER****

COUNTERFEIT EIGHT REALES

(Gord Nichols)

Presented here are four members of a distinctive family of counterfeit Mexico 8 reales coins. Three of these coins are made of a convincing alloy that is probably some sort of copper nickel. They appear to the eye to be a solid alloy and not plated. The 8's in the date and denomination are made from a punch that appears to be broken and is used in a random fashion with no discernable up or down orientation.

The first of these coins (Figure 1) is dated 1814 and has blundered assayers marks "RG". The correct marks would be "HJ" or "JJ". The date has an oversized 4 crowded between the truncation of the bust and the denticles. The letter punches seem to be taken from two or three different sized sets. The denomination is widely spaced with the "8" far from the "R". The "o" topping the mintmark is small. The lions in the shield are crude and lanky with grossly deformed tails. The castles are equally crude.



Figure 1. 1814 Eight Reales with Blundered Assayers Marks

The second of these coins (Figure 2) is dated 1815 with a notably undersized 5. The 8 is larger than the 1's with a larger "o" topping the mintmark. The castles and lions are equally crude but have better formed tails than found on the 1814. The 1815 is special among the four in that it appears to be a brass alloy and has a light silvering which is mostly worn away. The legend spacing and sizing is about the same but has incorrect assayers marks "II". A prominent centering spot graces the king's neck.



Figure 2. 1815 Eight Reales with Undersized 5

The third coin (Figure 3) in the family is the first of two dated 1818. Both 8's in the date have the same alignment with the open loop at the top. The 8 in the denomination is upset to these two with the open loop below. Overall this is the best made of the four coins with the most even legend spacing but the same blundered "II" assayers marks. The lions are much heavier than those previous and the castles better designed appearing "possible" similar to those of the 1815.



Figure 3. 1818 Eight Reales with Open-looped 8's Oriented Upwards

The last coin is an 1818 with one 8 up and the other down. The denomination of this one is the most widely spaced of the four. Overall the dies were not properly cut leaving large blank areas on both sides. The one visible lion though appears more realistic than any other. The assayers marks here are the same blundered "II", and widely spaced to boot. This coin is of the poorest workmanship of the four.



Figure 4. 1818 Eight REales with Open-looped 8's in Opposing Orientation

The broken eight family of counterfeit Spanish milled dollars is an interesting one. It must have been a fairly large and sophisticated operation despite the crudeness of the dies. This crudeness probably would not have hampered the circulation of these pieces as they are comparable to the crude Durango and Zacatecas pieces of Mexico, produced with the roughly the same dates. The efficiency of the mint can be assumed by the effort to produce a convincing alloy, the use of different date punches, and the steady improvement and decline of the die work. All of this, along with the good weight of the pieces, sometimes over the standard, and the presentable dentilation of the edges points to a well organized enterprise. Fortunately, the broken 8, and the similar style and punches, link these pieces together and may lead to the identification of other counterfeit varieties in the future.

THE FIRST C4 CONVENTION (1995): A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

(Roger A. Moore, M.D.)

The first annual convention of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club occurred in Pennsauken, New Jersey on October 19-21, 1995 at the South Jersey Expo Center. Anticipation for this convention had been building for over six months after John Griffiee shocked the New Jersey colonial collecting community by announcing his intention of placing his colonial collection on the auction block. Three weeks prior to the convention all EAC and C4 members received an early Christmas present in the form of a wonderfully illustrated and described catalog from McCawley-Grellman. This will no doubt become a classic catalog which will be referred to for many years to come. Of interest, I only heard two negative comments about the catalog: (1) that the photographs did not do the coins justice, and (2) that the photographs made the coins look too good!!! Obviously a contradiction in viewpoints which only underlines the need for personal inspection of any coin prior to active bidding.

Festivities started off Thursday night, October 19, with an informal gathering of colonial copper fanatics in the hotel room of Greg Ruby, who is to be commended for his efforts in organizing the convention. Copies of a special catalog--the Midnight Sale--were distributed to people who had attended the Walter Breen extravaganza, and Walter's personal copy was donated to the C4 auction. It was great to be able to socially interact with all the major dealers (Tom Rinaldo, Mike Ringo, Don Mituzas, Tony Terranova, Richard August, etc., etc., etc.) and collectors (I met two fellow physician collectors--Jim Rosen and Angel Pietri), though even during these festivities tension was beginning to build in anticipation of the auction. John Griffiee kindly signed personalized notes in the auction catalogs for anyone asking him. I think I detected a note of sorrow in John, but his enthusiasm for acquiring more Saint Patrick farthings, thereby making him the undisputed leader in this understudied coinage, hid any misgivings over the coming loss of his precious family of New Jersey coppers.

Friday was a busy day of viewing the incredible number of high quality coins being enticingly displayed both on the main bourse as well as in the C4 section. Despite everyone trying to conserve their cash reserves for the auction, quite a number of coins changed hands. Chris Young will have my eternal envy for the gorgeous New Jersey 70-x he picked up!!! Many of us volunteered to assist with lot viewing and I was able to pass a very pleasant afternoon with Mike Wierzba (Dennis' son) and Bijan Anvar (who I had never met but had "conversed" with on Compuserve coin forums). What a neat way to be able to see a lot of great coins close up and rub elbows with other dedicated colonial coin collectors, such as Dan Freidus and Steve Tanenbaum!!!

The real jewel for me was Friday night--the great students of New Jersey coppers (Dennis Wierzba, Ray Williams, John Lorenzo and Bill Anton, Jr.) put on the Third New Jersey Copper Symposium. The amount of effort (love?) infused into this endeavor by these individuals is incalculable. John Lorenzo shared with us his views on the

unreliability of die punch evidence in making decisions about mint sites. I must say his talk generated some impassioned discussion which left all of us richer in knowledge and viewpoint. This was followed by John Griffiee handing out a variety of "limited edition" and personally signed information sheets on his coins to be auctioned (the pre-auction tension was tightened another cinch). Then Ray Williams presented each attendee with a copy of Walter Breen's unpublished manuscript from 1955 on New Jersey Coppers. I cannot use enough adjectives to describe what a monumental and fantastic undertaking this was for Ray. Using an almost unreadable Xerox, Ray deciphered this manuscript word for word. The result is a truly valuable piece of New Jersey Copper history. Bill Anton emphasized the value of this document by calling it a gold mine of information. I still haven't made it all the way through this 88 page document. Thank you, Ray!!!

The last, but not least, event of the night was a die state presentation for a variety of New Jersey coins by Tom Madigan. Members of the audience brought their coins up to Tom so he could enlarge and project them on a screen for discussion. I found out that I have the earliest known die state for the Maris 21-0 variety!!! In addition everyone benefited from the incredible knowledge and insights provided by Bill Anton during the discussions of specific varieties. By the way, Tom was selling his loose leaf book on die states of New Jerseys, and I got my copy autographed.

Saturday brought more buying, selling and trading, as well as promises to buy, if any money was left after the auction. In addition a variety of educational programs were available. Robert Martin gave a talk about finding the original photographic plates from the 1975 EAC auction. Jim Goudge explored the complex world of Connecticut coppers, which complemented his incredible exhibit of these coins. Finally, David Manchell both displayed and lectured on the Betts medals just before everyone rushed home through the heavy rain to get a nap before the auction.

Finally, 7:30 PM arrived!!! Almost a hundred crazed colonial collectors crowded into a small room and sat on some of the most uncomfortable chairs in existence. However, for the next four hours few people left their seats--except for one poor bidder whose chair collapsed under him in the heat of trying to obtain a coin. Bidding was strong for almost all of the 600+ lots. The good news for John Griffiee was that bidding was especially heavy and exceptional prices were realized for many of his New Jerseys. The bad news was that I was one of the active bidders on a number of these coins. The good news is I got some of the coins I wanted. The bad news was I had to figure out some way to tell my wife!!!! Oh well, the meeting, the auction, the friendships, the lectures, the books, the handouts--it all added up into one great send-off for the first C4 convention. So, if I start saving my money now, by this time next year when the C4 Convention occurs. . . .

****THE FRENCH-AMERICAN CORNER****

AN INTERESTING “OLD SOL”

(Syd Martin)



Pictured above is a coin of considerable interest to collectors of French-American coinage. It is a billon quinzain minted in Paris during 1641, and is listed in Breen's *Encyclopedia*¹ as #272, where it is noted as “extremely rare,” with which I concur. However, it has been countermarked with a fleur de lys in a beaded circle – the official French marking applied in 1640 to (presumably) older billon coins to make them current. Such countermarked coins, known as *Old Sols* or *Black Doggs*, were made current in Canada at a rate of 20 deniers by an edict of 24 November 1672.² These *Old Sols* are listed in Breen's *Encyclopedia* as #271 – as a class, they are not rare, with the countermarks known on a variety of undertypes. However, this coin, with the countermark, appears to be unique. There is not even a hint of one in Vlack's opus on the billon coinage of New France.³ Further, this coin proves that the 1640 countermark was used beyond that date. It suggests that 1641-A quinzains, at least in the form of *Old Sols*, became current in, and likely reached, New France. It was found in a Canadian collection.

¹ Breen, Walter. *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*, New York:Doubleday, 1988, pp. 47-48.

² Shortt, Adam. *Documents Relating to Canadian Currency, Exchange and Finance During the French Period*, Ottawa: F.A. Acland, 1925, pp. 36-39.

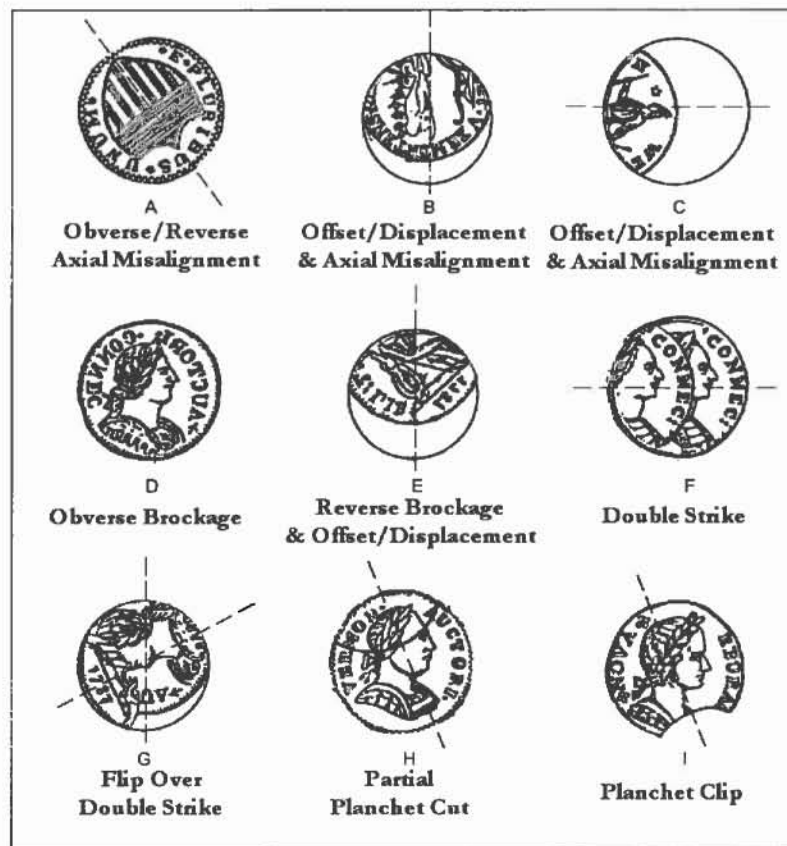
³ Vlack, Robert. *An Illustrated Catalogue of The French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004, pp. 9-11.

CONNECTICUT COPPER ERROR SURVEY – A REQUEST

(Randy Clark)

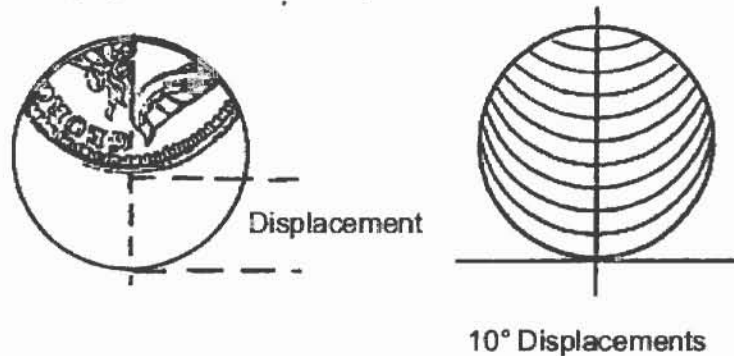
Questions have been asked in internet group discussion forums whether certain Connecticut varieties are prone to offset or multiple strikes. This is often a followup conversation to the use of mechanical assist during stamping for insertion or ejection. A presumption can be made that varieties often *significantly* off center, particularly if the amount is random rather than consistent, could be associated with an assisted planchet feed operation. Conversely, double strikes, multiple strikes and brockages (not flip over strikes), if seen with frequency on a variety, could be an indication of an assisted ejection operation. Then there are the flip over double/multiple strikes ... and fantasy multiple strikes ... which are more likely the result of human interaction. Of course, the premise of assisted manufacturing is speculative ... such errors might simply have been the result of too much rum the night (or hour) before. Still, we are looking for trends ... and to compile the statistics we need to reach deep into collections rich with error type strikes.

Several CNL publications are quite useful for understanding colonial errors, particularly for Connecticut coppers. The reader is directed to *The Colonial Newsletter* (CNL) #103 (September 1996) and CNL #104 (April 1997) for an error quantification system. Articles showing more error coin images are CNL #42 (December 1974), CNL #45 (January 1975), CNL #47 (October 1976) and CNL #125 (April 2004). For example:



From *The Colonial Newsletter* #104, April 1997, Page 1668 [Author annotated]

When looking to understand whether an example is *significantly* off center, guidance is 10% off or more. More extensive offset and axial alignment tools can be found in CNL #103 page 1653, a brief sample of which is shown below:



From *The Colonial Newsletter* #103, September 1996, Page 1647

A complete listing of Connecticut copper varieties by year is shown on the following pages. Also included is a blank worksheet which can be copied (don't pull out the one in your C4N) and used to document any related material. If electronic copies of this sheet are desired, I can be reached at auctori.connec@gmail.com for any direct communication.

To respect Connecticut collector privacy for those whose holdings are not a matter of public record (which is nearly everyone), all responses should be sent (anonymously, if desired) to our very own C4 president Ray Williams ... an impartial, non-Connecticut copper collector ... at the contact information below. Ray has graciously offered to make sure information sources are kept confidential, if requested.

Ray Williams
924 Norway Ave
Trenton, NJ 08629
njraywms@optonline.net

Responses will be accumulated and published in a following *C4 Newsletter* (depending on how quickly responses come in), understanding it may take a couple of newsletter cycles for inputs to come in.

Thank you in advance to those who have Connecticut holdings and take the time to respond to this survey !

-Randy Clark / September 2010

1785 Varieties By Obverse (31 Combinations)

Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse
1	E	3.5	B	6.3	G.1
2	A.1	4.1	F.4	6.3	G.2
2	A.4	4.2	F.6	6.4	F.5
3.1	A.3	4.3	A.2	6.4	I
3.1	F.3	4.3	D	6.4	K
3.1	L	4.4	C	6.5	M
3.2	L	4.4	D	6.6	A.3
3.3	F.3	5	F.5	7.1	D
3.4	F.1	6.1	A.1	7.2	D
3.4	F.2	6.2	F.1	7.3	D
				8	D

1786 Varieties By Obverse (41 Combinations)

Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse
1	A	5.2	L	5.8	F
2.1	A	5.2	O.2	5.8	H.2
2.1	D.3	5.3	B.2	5.8	O.2
2.2	D.2	5.3	G	5.9	B.1
3	D.1	5.3	N	5.9	L
3	D.4	5.4	G	5.9	Q
4.1	C	5.4	N	5.10	L
4.1	G	5.4	O.1	5.10	P
4.2	R	5.5	M	5.11	R
4.2	S	5.6	M	5.13	I
4.3	H.2	5.7	G	5.14	S
5.1	H.1	5.7	H.1	5.15	S
5.2	H.1	5.7	O.2	6	K
5.2	I			7	K

1788 Varieties By Obverse (37 Combinations + 5 Mules)

Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse
1	I	9	E	16.1	H
2	D	10	C	16.2	O
3	B.1	11	G	16.3	N
3	B.2	12.1	E	16.4	A.2
4.1	B.1	12.1	F.1	16.4	L.2
4.1	B.2	12.2	C	16.5	H
4.1	K	12.2	E	16.7	P
4.2	R	13	A.1	17	O
5	B.2	14.1	L.2	17	Q
6	H	14.1	S	100	I
7	E	14.2	A.2	101	D
7	F.2	15.1	L.1	125	I
7	K	15.2	P	128	I
8	K	16.1	D	129	I

1787 Miller Varieties Sorted by Obverse (244 Combinations + 1 mule)

Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse	Obverse	Reverse
1.1	A	26	AA	33.10	Z.7	33.29	Z.7	37.2	k.5
1.1	VV	26	kk.1	33.10	Z.8	33.29	Z.25	37.3	i
1.2	C	27	a.1	33.11	Z.18	33.29	s.1	37.4	k.1
1.2	mm	28	m	33.11	gg.1	33.29	gg.1	37.4	RR
1.3	L	28	n	33.12	W.3	33.30	EE	37.5	e
1.4	WW	28	o	33.12	Z.10	33.30	SS	37.6	B
2	B	29.1	a.2	33.12	Z.16	33.31	gg.2	37.6	k.4
3	G.1	29.1	n	33.12	Z.21	33.32	Z.13	37.7	h.2
4	L	29.1	p	33.12	Z.24	33.33	Z.3	37.8	k.2
5	P	29.2	N	33.13	Z.1	33.33	Z.11	37.8	HH
6.1	M	29.2	o	33.13	Z.6	33.34	W.2	37.8	LL
6.2	M	30	X.1	33.13	Z.7	33.34	Z.3	37.9	e
7	I	30	hh.1	33.13	q	33.34	Z.11	37.10	RR
8	N	31.1	r.4	33.13	ff.1	33.35	Z.1	37.11	ff.2
8	O	31.1	gg.1	33.13	hh.2	33.35	Z.9	37.12	LL
8	a.1	31.2	r.3	33.14	Z.2	33.36	T.1	37.12	TT
9	D	32.1	X.3	33.14	Z.14	33.36	T.2	37.13	HH
9	E	32.2	X.1	33.15	r.1	33.36	T.3	37.14	cc.2
9	R	32.2	X.2	33.16	T.2	33.36	SS	37.15	h.3
10	E	32.2	X.4	33.16	Z.15	33.37	Z.9	38	l.2
11.1	E	32.3	X.4	33.16	l.2	33.37	Z.11	38	GG
11.2	K	32.4	F	33.17	r.1	33.38	Z.1	39.1	h.1
11.3	K	32.4	X.5	33.17	r.5	33.38	Z.6	39.1	ff.2
12	Q	32.4	Z.3	33.17	gg.2	33.38	Z.18	39.2	ee
13	D	32.4	Z.20	33.18	Z.24	33.38	Z.23	40	N
14	H	32.5	aa	33.19	Z.1	33.38	gg.1	40	kk.1
15	F	32.6	X.6	33.19	Z.2	33.39	Z.13	41	ii
15	R	32.7	X.1	33.19	Z.4	33.39	Z.20	42	o
15	S	32.8	aa	33.19	q	33.39	s.1	42	kk.2
16.1	m	33.1	Z.13	33.20	Z.9	33.40	Z.1	43.1	Y
16.2	NN.1	33.1	Z.19	33.20	Z.11	33.40	Z.2	43.2	X.4
16.2	NN.2	33.2	Z.5	33.21	Z.13	33.41	Z.11	44	W.4
16.3	l.2	33.2	Z.12	33.21	k.4	33.42	Z.2	44	W.5
16.4	n	33.2	Z.17	33.21	EE	33.43	q	44	Z.10
16.5	n	33.2	Z.21	33.22	II	33.43	hh.2	45	CC
16.5	p	33.2	Z.22	33.23	Z.4	33.44	W.3	46	BB
16.6	NN.2	33.3	W.1	33.23	hh.2	33.45	W.2	47	a.3
17	g.3	33.4	Z.2	33.24	Z.10	33.46	Z.21	48	g.5
18	g.1	33.4	q	33.25	W.3	33.46	Z.22	48	k.3
19	g.4	33.5	T.2	33.25	Z.10	33.47	TT	49.1	Z.1
20	a.2	33.6	KK	33.25	Z.24	33.48	Z.25	49.2	Z.1
21	DD	33.7	Z.9	33.26	W.3	33.49	Z.7	49.2	Z.26
22	g.2	33.7	Z.10	33.26	W.5	33.50	Z.24	49.2	Z.27
24	g.3	33.7	r.2	33.27	Z.16	34	k.3	50	F
24	g.5	33.7	r.4	33.27	r.4	34	ff.1	52	G.1
24	FF	33.8	Z.13	33.28	Z.7	36	k.3	52	G.2
25	b	33.8	Z.19	33.28	Z.11	36	l.1	53	FF
25	m	33.9	s.2	33.28	Z.16	36	ff.2	56	XX
26	a.1	33.10	W.6	33.28	Z.20	37.1	cc.1	101	G.2

[illegible]

SANTA CRISTINA 8 REAL PIECES

(Craig McDonald)

At the ANA's "National Money Show" held in Ft. Worth Texas, back in March, 2010, I picked up three Spanish 8 reale cobs, all from the Potosi, Bolivia mint. The dealer had a total of five pieces, but only these three still had identifiable dates. Seeing as it was late in the afternoon and there were no Connecticut or Vermont coins on the floor that I just had to have, I decided to expand my meager Spanish-American silver collection a bit, as up to this point I only owned two 8R coins:



While not completely visible in the image, the coins (l. to r.) are dated (16)71, (16)67, and (16)68. Along with the coins came a nicely printed information card stating that the coins were recovered from the wreck of the "Señorita de Santa Cristina," which went down at Cadiz, Spain, in 1672.

What struck me as odd was that the coins showed none of the signs usually exhibited by silver coins that have spent the last several centuries submerged in salt water. The surfaces were essentially free from the corrosion sea salvaged pieces almost always exhibit, and each had a nice, even, original dark toning, indicating that they hadn't been harshly cleaned as many salvaged coins are.

When I got home that evening, I pulled out Sedwick's *"The Practical Book of Cobs,"* and turned to the section on wrecks. I found the following (reprinted with permission of the author). Note, especially, the last paragraph:

Unidentified wreck sunk ca. 1671 in Seville Harbor, Spain

The city of Seville is situated on the Guadalquivir River, about 50 miles inland from the ocean port of Cádiz, where treasure from the New World

arrived on sea-going galleons. From there the treasure sailed upriver by boat to Seville. Sometime in 1671 it is believed one of these boats sank outside Seville, or at least its treasure was lost there somehow in the river, for in the mid-1990s a large hoard of obviously salvaged silver cob 8 and 4 reales of Potosí, none dated later than 1671, and mostly in decent condition, began to emerge from markets in Spain without provenance but reportedly found in Seville Harbor during the installation of a fiber-optic cable across the river.

It should be noted that the same type of coins (with characteristics identical to those from the Seville wreck) have been sold in recent years as having come from the so-called "*Señorita de Santa Cristina*" of 1672 off Cádiz, but we can find no record of this ship or its salvage.

It now made sense as to why the coins showed very little sign of corrosion....they had been recovered from the **fresh** water and mud of Seville harbor. Had they been recovered from salt water off the coast of Cadiz, they would undoubtedly have been corroded as is normal for sea salvaged silver coins.

I contacted Mr. Sedwick to see if any additional information had come to light about this wreck since he published the book. He responded back, basically saying that he has not yet seen any documentation of a ship or wreck of this name and until proof is found, he considers this name a fabrication.

The only other reference to this wreck I was able to find was the following snippet from a current internet sale listing of three 8 reale coins reportedly also from this wreck:

8 Real from the "BLACK SHIP" Gallon (sic), SENORITA DE SANTA CHRISTINA that sunk (sic) in 1672 in the Bay of Cadiz. It was called the "Black Ship" due to the sails being painted black to prevent it from being seen by pirates. The cargo was mainly 8 Real (sic) minted at Potosi, Bolivia.

I contacted the dealer asking what his source was for both the ship's name, and about them painting their sails black to avoid pirates. He responded back that he didn't recall where he had read it.

The idea of a ship painting its sails seems odd to me in that the treasure fleets were comprised of numerous heavily armed galleons sailing together, so a single ship in a fleet doing so would have been pretty much pointless if the other ships in the fleet hadn't done the same. And if it was common practice to do so, this would probably be documented somewhere...at least I've never heard of it before. Also, except for at night, a black sail would probably stand out against the light blue sky of the horizon more so than a light (naturally) colored sail. I'm sure there were probably single ships sailing back and forth from the New World to Spain with treasure, so if perhaps it was a "loner," an attempt to camouflage itself by painting its sails *might* make a *bit* more sense.

A PISTAREEN BROCKAGE

(Byron Weston)

Although I've been attending coin shows for several decades I began spending a lot more of my time behind the bourse table with one or the other of my two dealer friends starting in 1992. I soon discovered that this latter situation had some distinct advantages over just being a member of the public attending a show for just a few hours. First and foremost, I wasn't tied to the table and could wonder the floor digging out treasures from dealer's back boxes at my leisure, and I could do that for virtually the entire show if that was what I wanted to do.

Of course I also got to know several of the dealers that I would see regularly, and also which were more likely to have something of interest. I could then set my priorities of who I would visit first. Several bourse dealers also got to know me just as well and, because they knew I would be at one of the shows on their schedule, they would hold back items specifically for me. Some even purchased coins specifically with me in mind as their buyer.

On several occasions I would be shown something that they knew would intrigue me but that I knew little or nothing about. I'd heard that old adage about buying the book before the coin, just as most collectors had, but I was the complete opposite of that; I was more likely to buy the coin and then try to find the right reference that would tell me something about it, or I would try to find out what others knew about it if it was something I couldn't find a reference for.

The previous paragraph describes exactly the situation as it occurred at last spring's PAN Convention in Monroeville, PA and my subsequent search for knowledge about a most unusual item that was presented to me:



**Spanish Pistareen
Seville Mint, 1768-71
Reverse Brockage**

This wasn't something that I'd ever seen before, at least not for this type of coin. Although I knew that it was a pistareen, looked quite genuine, and that I could confirm the attribution by the mint and assayer marks, I had no clue as to how common or rare it might be as a reverse brockage error.

First thing when I got home from the show was go to Bill Snyder's website (<http://www.worlderrors.com/>) to see if he had catalogued anything similar – no such luck! I'd known Bill for about a decade and consider him "the go-to-guy" for anything to do with world coin errors. One of his coins was also the subject of a technical note I'd written with Gary Trudgen for the *Colonial Newsletter*, "Central Device Punch Trial Piece of the 1781-dated Series of Counterfeit Halfpence," (TN-192).

As soon as I had an image of this pistareen brockage I emailed it to Bill and asked for his comments. Needless to say I was quite surprised by what he had to say:

The pistareen brockage is super rare. Besides my 30+ years of collecting I've also recorded all advertised major foreign errors and auctions, as well as conducted surveys of major foreign errors among other specialists. In fact, there appears to be a dirth of any major mis-strikes in any pre-1830 Spanish denomination bigger than a 1/4 real.

The Richard Picker brockage collection (Stack's May 25, 1989 Mail Bid Sale) had a Peru, Lima mint. 2 Reales, assayer I.J. (1788-1803), reverse brockage, Fine or better, lot 1158, that sold for \$104.50. That, of course, was a Spanish American 2 reales and not a debased pistareen from one the mainland Spanish mints. I've otherwise encountered only one mis-struck 2 reales. That one was a 15% off-center 1778 (no record of Mint).

I've always thought this strange, as I've had (and seen) many brockages and doublestrikes of that time period from the other European countries. One would think that as many major coin errors were also produced in Spain.

Summarizing, in more than 30 years of collecting and studying such errors, I have never before heard of or seen a pistareen brockage.

Needless to say, even with the madness of my methods for finding coins I certainly wasn't disappointed with this particular purchase!

C4 EXHIBITS AT THE 2010 WORLD'S FAIR OF MONEY*

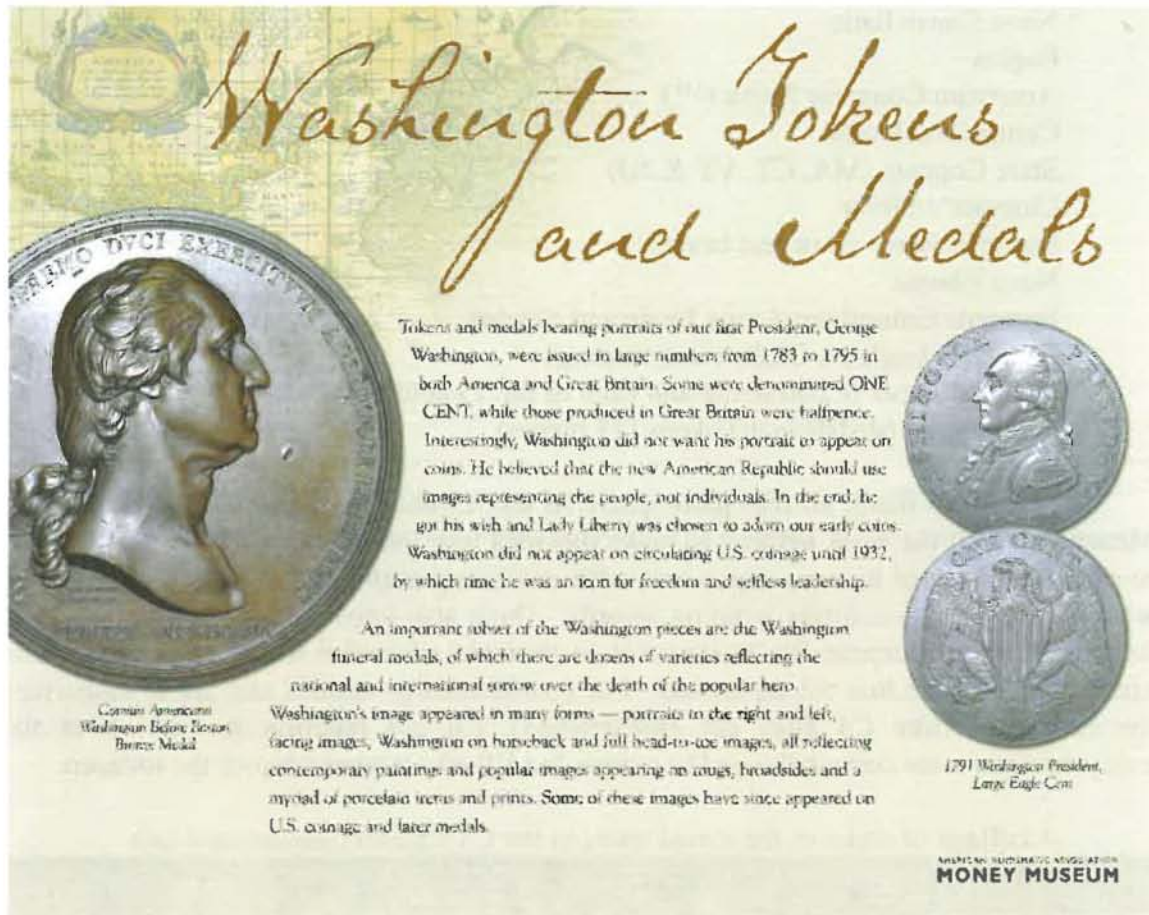


The Summer ANA Convention was held in Boston 10-14 August 2010. The convention theme was "Birthplace of American Money;" what better theme could there be for C4? This picture shows convention attendees enjoying the C4 Exhibit. It was not located in the usual exhibit area but in the Museum Showcase on the main bourse floor.

The exhibit plans started late, and to expedite things, the number of participants needed to be limited. We had nine C4 members contributing coins, medals and colonial artifacts for display. As you can see in the picture, there were six museum cases, each alarmed separately, protected with plexiglass and with a beautiful descriptive panel. C4 members worked closely with ANA staffers Doug Mudd and Tiffanie Bueschel, communicating on almost a daily basis for over a month. The ANA provided a very professional and attractive look to the coins we supplied. Doug and Tiffanie were a pleasure to work with, and I hope we can work together again.

The C4 Club Table was located within view of the exhibits and there was rarely a moment during the entire convention when there wasn't someone enjoying our coins. I credit the exhibit for being helpful in signing up 15 new members in Boston. Also, many collectors went home realizing that there are some interesting coins in the first 84 pages of the Red Book! The case contents included items used in barter, coins, medals and colonial artifacts. The artifacts really dressed up the cases and attracted people from a distance. No, that brown object in the first case pictured above is not a present left by someone's dog... it's a form of tobacco!

*Contributed by Ray Williams



Above is the display panel for the 6th exhibit case, as a sample of appearance. They were beautifully done and you should have an opportunity to see them in Boston at the C4 Convention. The panels were simple, gave an overview of the contents of the case, and drew attention to the exhibit from far away.

The approximately 100 coins and artifacts have been photographed and placed in a booklet that will be available for viewing at the C4 Convention. It can also be borrowed from the C4 Library at some point after the convention. I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't give you some highlights of what coins were exhibited:

- Foreign coins that circulated in the colonies
- Trade beads, Wampum, Tobacco, Musket Balls as barter items
- Hogge Money
- Massachusetts Silver
- American Plantations
- Wood's Hibernia and Rosas
- Virginia Halfpence
- French Colonial
- Elephant Tokens

Voce Populi
Nova Constellatio
Fugios
American Congress Fugio (!!!)
Continental Dollar
State Coppers (MA, CT, VT & NJ)
Chalmer's Silver
Standish Barry 3d (a real beauty!)
Nova Eborac
Immunis Columbias (Large Eagle and Shield)
Excelsior Eagle on Globe (Outstanding)
Colonial Paper (Continental and each of the 13 colonies)
Washington Medals and Tokens (11 pieces)

I'd like to thank all that participated in this exhibit, with special thanks to Dave Menchell for all the work helping to make this idea turn into a reality. Dave was my go-to person because of his vast experience with exhibiting in the past at ANA Conventions, with many of those exhibits winning awards. Dave also knows a lot of the ANA staff too. Part of our purpose for existence is to promote education in the field of colonial numismatics and in that we succeeded. For confidentiality reasons and not to embarrass the exhibitors (like C4 guys get embarrassed), I'll not mention the names of the exhibitors and what coins belonged to whom, but I'll admit ownership of the tobacco.

A collage of some of the actual coins in the C4 Exhibit (coins not actual size)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spanish Gold Hoard – Submitted by Marc Mayhugh. One day while casually browsing through some older issues of “Seaby’s Coin and Medal Bulletin” [specifically, No. 409, Vol. No.6, June 1952], I came upon this item which I found rather entertaining. Hopefully, some of you will find it entertaining as well. Seaby had reprinted the letter verbatim from their source and I will do the same.

Letters To The Editors From the Press, ETC.

An intriguing discovery. It is always interesting to hear about finds of coins, and the following account is copied verbatim from *The Political Magazine*, dated November 1781:

“Discovery of Spanish Coins. Upwards of 1700L. (pounds, British money) worth of Spanish coin has been found in the ruins of the Bell Alehouse at Cotham, Lancashire, which was burnt down on Thursday se’nnight (an Eighteenth Century term for a week, in this instance I take it to mean a week ago). This treasure which consists of 18s. -36s. -3 L. 12s. - and a few 7L. 4s. pieces, it is now discovered, had been concealed, curiously packed with cotton, under the false bottom of a chest belonging to the publican.

The chest was taken out of a Spanish prize last war, and had stood for sale in a warehouse belonging to Mr. Wilkes auctioneer in Liverpool for upwards of fourteen years. It was about eighteen months ago, put into a sale of household goods, and disposed of for three shillings to a marine, who, the same day, sold it to the landlord of the Bell (who happened to be in Portsmouth) for seven shillings; and its being burnt with the rest of his furniture, brought to light the valuable contents.

The great weight that so large a quantity of gold of course added to the chest, was attributed to the peculiar quality of the wood, and thickness of the bottom.”

I was interested to note that the current English value was stated for the four types represented (18/-, 36/-, L3/12 (3 pounds 12 shillings) and L7/4 (7 pounds and 4 shillings) and not the Spanish value and type, which no doubt indicates a familiarity with foreign currencies in the 18th Century which may have been due to the shortage of English currency, and to the captures of enemy treasure ships during that period.

Can any of your readers please tell me what Spanish gold coins the above values represent?
A. Sambrook.

Seaby’s reply: We suggest that the 18/-, 36/- and 72/- pieces may have been Spanish or Brazilian 2, 4 and 8 escudo gold coins, and that the L. 7/4- piece can only have been a Brazilian gold 20,000 reis of c. 1725.

It is ironic to note that the marine probably felt quite fortunate to flip the chest for more than double his cost, while at the same time, handing over a small fortune. On the other hand, it was, no doubt, a blessing to the owner of the Bell who had lost his building and other possessions in the fire.

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

C4 ELECTION RESULTS

As C4 President, it is my pleasure to introduce the new slate of officers who will enter (or retain) office at the C4 convention. Terms of office are two years, with the next elections to be held in 2012. I want to thank all the current and past officers I have had the pleasure to work with. I can honestly say that your C4 Board has always had the best interest of the membership in mind whenever decisions were made. I never saw a hint of a personal agenda.

Any of the candidates who were part of this election would have done a fine job for C4. I appreciate the willingness of everyone to run for office and volunteer to serve. C4 is just filled with the best people in numismatics!

FYI, of a membership of about 400, there were 84 votes cast in the 2010 election. When you see these officers at the C4 Convention, thank them for their contributions. Also, thank the outgoing officers too. Every one of them has served C4 for over a decade as an officer. These guys get no salary. They just get their breakfast paid for at the annual board meeting.

C4 Officers Nov 2010 to Nov 2012:

President	Jim Rosen
Vice President	Jack Howes
Treasurer	Charlie Rohrer
Secretary	Frank Steimle
Region 1 VP	Mike Wierzba
Region 2 VP	Dave Menchell
Region 3 VP	Stan Stephens
Region 4 VP	Lou Jordan
Region 5 VP	Craig McDonald
Region 6 VP	Randy Clark
Region 7 VP	Buell Ish
Immediate Past President	Ray Williams
C4 Editor	Syd Martin
C4 Librarian	Leo Shane

I've included the positions of editor and librarian in this list because they do so much work, even if they are not elected to do so. You'll notice that in Region 4, Lou Jordan is the new VP, even though his name was not on the ballot. As Jack Howes won the position of National VP a vacancy was created for the Region 4 VP. With concurrence of the C4 Board, the Region 4 VP position was offered to Lou and accepted without hesitation. Thank you Lou, all the newly elected officers, and all those who were willing to run for office.

Ray

ANNUAL C4 CONVENTION, 11-14 NOVEMBER 2010

In conjunction with the Bay State Coin Show, Boston, Massachusetts
Radisson Hotel (Theater District); 617-482-1800 (Room Reservations)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

<u>Thursday:</u>	4:30 – 8:30	Dealer Set-up on Bourse Floor
	8:30 -- ?	C4 Reception (C4 EAC Members) in Carver Salon III
<u>Friday:</u>	7:30am	C4 Publications Committee Breakfast (Hotel Restaurant)
	8:00am	Bourse Opens to Dealers
	10:00am	Bourse Opens to the Public
	11:00 – 5:00	C4 Auction Lot Viewing (C4 and EAC Members Only)
	7:00	Bourse Closes
		Evening Educational Forum (C4 and EAC Members Only)
	7:00 – 7:30	Refreshments
	7:30 – 8:15	Anne Bentley, Massachusetts Historical Society "Revere and the 1776 Massachusetts Pine Tree Copper Penny: Did he or didn't he?"
	8:20 – 8:55	John Adams, "Admiral Vernon, History Revisited"
	9:00 – 9:35	Randy Clark, "The Jarvis Delivery of Fugio Coppers"
	9:40 – 10:15	Jack Howes, "Counterfeit Ryder 5/15s & Variety Census
<u>Saturday:</u>	7:00am	C44 Board Breakfast Meeting (Hotel Restaurant)
	8:30am	C44 Annual Membership Business Meeting
	9:00am	Bourse Opens to Dealers
	10:00am	Bourse Opens to the Public
	10:00 – 5:30	Auction Lot Viewing (C4 and EAC Members Only)
	2:00 – 3:00	Ray Williams, "Coins and Commerce in Colonial Times" Carver Salon III
	3:00 – 4:00	Scott Travers, "Investing in Rare Coins;" Carver Salon III
	6:00pm	Refreshments (C4 and EAC Members Only); in Carver Salon III
	6:30pm	C4 Auction (C4 and EAC Members Only); Carver Salon III
	7:00pm	Bourse Closes
<u>Sunday:</u>	9:30 am	Bourse Opens to Dealers
	10:30 – 3:00	Bourse Open to the Public

NOTE: This schedule is accurate as of the time of publication. Please confirm times and rooms when you arrive at the convention.

LITERARY NOTES

Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Ray Williams: As you all know, Jim Rosen will become President of C4 in November. There are many things I do in C4 that I do as a member and not as president. These will continue. One of the things I've done as President was to store cases of C4 Newsletters and old C4 Auction catalogs at my house. To relieve some of the burden of the incoming President, I have obtained a volunteer to take this on... Wayne Shelby. Wayne has agreed to store the excess newsletters and catalogs at his house. People wishing to purchase items that are still available would pay the treasurer. Upon receipt of the money, the Treasurer (Charlie Rorher) will contact Wayne, who will deliver the material. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:



dughistory@juno.com



C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following three books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis, Numismatic Literature, P.O. Box 547, Wenham, MA 01984; Tel: 978-468-2933; Fax: (978) 468 7893; email: numislit@aol.com.

- (1) Jordan, Lou. "John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage," Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002.
- (2) Vlack, Robert, "An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas," Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004.
- (3) Martin, Sydney. "The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)," Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007.

Hardbound copies of past C4 auctions are available in very limited numbers. If interested, contact Ray Williams or Leo Shane.

The Silver Coins of Massachusetts by Christopher J. Salmon (2010)

Hardcover, full color

ISBN-13: 978-0-89722-316-0

ISBN-10: 0-89722-316

List Price: \$95 plus shipping and handling

Pre-publication Price: \$60 plus shipping and handling

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The Silver Coins of Massachusetts is a splendidly illustrated review of these coins, employing the latest historical and numismatic evidence as well as novel scientific analysis. Minting techniques are explored in detail. All varieties of the coinage are newly classified with a consistent yet flexible taxonomic system that lists the varieties in chronological order and can readily accommodate potential future discoveries. The system allows an appreciation for how varieties evolved and the relative degree of change that occurred at each step. It is designed to be as simple as possible without oversimplifying, with all varieties named according to their obverse and reverse dies. The book includes a fully illustrated atlas that details important characteristic features. The last part of the atlas displays each variety at actual size to aid in attribution.

\$60 pre-publication discount (plus S&H) if ordered by or on December 15th, 2010

A note from your president... I saw a B&W prototype of this book at the Summer ANA Convention in Boston. As colonial coin collectors, it is our inherent nature to possess the literature to further our knowledge of colonial numismatics. As the Athenian Owl is emblematic of Ancient Greek Coinage, the Pine Tree Shilling has that prominent place for colonial numismatics. Regardless of your specialty, adding a Massachusetts Shilling to your collection is always a welcome event. Consider adding this book to your library. The original deadline for the pre-publication special cost was October. At our request, the ANS was kind enough to extend that period to December 15th to allow our membership to read about it in the C4N. If you don't spend the \$60 on yourself, why not give this book order to family so that you have something nice for Christmas instead of ties and socks! To order, call Megan at ANS with your credit card at 212-571-4470 ext 117. We plan to have a copy of the book at the C4 Table in Boston. Please ask to see it.

Ray Williams

THE COPPER COINS OF VERMONT – AVAILABLE AGAIN

As a result of a small number of unbound copies of the Carlotto book having been located, a new binding has been prepared to make the book available after having been out of print for a number of years. The new binding, prepared by the Harcourt Bindery in Boston, is in a fine brown cloth, rounded spine, with the Vermont logo stamped in copper on the front board. Each contains a letterpress bookplate cast by the Firefly Press, also in Boston, which is numbered and signed by Tony Carlotto. A single page errata is also bound in. While otherwise textually identical to the original, it is a superior binding and adds the cachet of a signed bookplate. While we have begun selling the book to the general public, we have reserved the lowest numbers for C-4 members. The price is \$150.00 plus \$6.00 shipping.

A very small number of unbound copies was also reserved for two styles of numbered and signed leather bindings and are priced at \$550.00 and \$375.00, each plus \$8.00 shipping. Orders for all books should be sent to Charles Davis, Box 547, Wenham Mass 01984



C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently \$25.00 for Regular Membership and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the C4 Newsletter envelope. You may pay your dues for next year at the C4 convention in Boston, or mail a check (made out to "C4") to...

Charlie Rohrer
C4 Treasurer



Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes my job easier and is much appreciated!



The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :
<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob>.
<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfzd5ZR~x~8=>

THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY

(Ray Williams)

I don't know how many fishermen (women) there are in C4 but there is a great sense of satisfaction when catching a large fish. The struggle, the luck, the skill... That satisfaction is multiplied when you have a friend there to witness the event and confirm your battle stories. The same can be true with coins.

There was a beautiful sunny afternoon when I met two friends (and C4 members) Wayne Shelby and Roger Moore. We met at Wayne's house and drove to a field in Burlington County, NJ. Upon parking on the edge of the field, we set up our metal detectors, adjusted settings and coil distance. I wore my nail pouch to hold finds, both good and bad ones. With retrieval equipment (knife & trowel) we were set to go! Wayne had been there before and told us about his finds and approximate locations. I couldn't wait to get started! Every trip with a metal detector is like a mini treasure hunt! You never know what is going to be discovered.

Recently, I had problems with my 20 year old detector – a Compass X100. I had taken it apart, cleaned all the controls, switches and circuit board interconnects. It seemed to work fine. After we powered up our machines, Wayne reached in his pocket and pulled out a GEO III Half Penny. He threw it on the ground in front of me and told me to check my machine. I picked up the target just fine, and could even hear it when my coil was 10" above it. I was ready to go. Swinging my detector coil past the Half Penny, I heard another target. It was shallow and I figured it was a modern quarter. So I just stuck my retrieval knife into the ground a couple inches and popped it up into the air. To the amazement of the three of us, it was a NJ Copper!!! Now, this was not my first NJ Copper, and hopefully it won't be my last, but the beautiful part was that I had two witnesses who shared my excitement. That was my only colonial I found that day, but I did retrieve two stone pestles (as in mortar & pestle) used by local Native Americans.

You ask why there is no picture of this great find? Well, the story continues. The NJ was a common Rahway variety (I think a 43-d) and I kept it in my pocket as a "pocket piece" for some months. Then comes a visit to the ANS in NY and I spent several hours viewing NJ Coppers containing CT undertypes. This was a new collection that had just been obtained by the ANS. For those that haven't had the opportunity to view coins at the ANS, there is always a curatorial person in the room with you. On that day, Robert Hoge's Curatorial Assistant, Sylvia Karges, was given the assignment. We had a nice conversation while I was enjoying the coins. I found out that she didn't collect coins, but she does have a modest start collecting Notegeld. So I reached in my pocket and gave her the NJ Copper from Burlington County, NJ as her start to collecting colonial coins. I don't know if she's added to it yet, but every collector starts with one coin...

C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

The Library continues to get copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. There's still room for more. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library are greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety.

Below are new items donated to the club since the last C4 Newsletter. They are available for loan to any C4 member. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on borrowing them is available at the C4 website www.colonialcoins.org. Thanks to all who have donated items.

Lasser, Joseph R. and Gail G. Greve, William E. Pittman, John A. Caramia Jr., *The Coins of Early America – World Trade Coins of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation: Williamsburg, VA, 1997 (4 copies) – Donated by Tony Terranova.

Heritage Auction Galleries, *The Edward Roehrs Collection of US Regulated Gold (Colonial)*, 12,13 & 16 August 2010, Boston, MA – Donated by Tony Terranova.

Stacks, John J. Ford Jr. *Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Parts II, III, IV, VII, X, XIII (2 copies), XIV, XV, XVII and XVIII*, May 2004 to May 2007, New York, NY – Donated by Tony Terranova.

Walton, Gary M. & James E. Shepherd, *The Economic Rise of Early America*, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, MA, 1979 – Donated by Roger Siboni.

Bowers & Merena, *The Collections of Craig N. Smith and George William Youngman*, 13-15 March 2003, Baltimore, MD – Donated by Roger Siboni.

Spink / Christie's, *The Byron Reed Collection of Important American Coins and Manuscripts*, 8-9 October 1996, New York, NY (Hardbound copy) – Donated by Roger Siboni.

Bowers & Merena, *The Saccone Collection*, 6-8 November 1989, New York, NY – Donated by R. Siboni.

Bowers & Merena, *Four Landmark Collections – Hagle Griner Rudduck Bebee*, 27-31 March 1989, New York, NY – Donated by Roger Siboni.

Bowers & Merena, *The Ezra Cole Collection*, 23-25 January 1986, Los Angeles, CA – Donated by R. Siboni.

Stacks, *The Philadelphia Americana Sale – Part One American Paper Currency*,
30 September – 2 October 2010, Philadelphia, PA – Donated by Stacks.

Stacks, *The Philadelphia Americana Sale – Part Two Coins Medals Americana*,
30 September – 2 October 2010, Philadelphia, PA – Donated by Stacks.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. Thank You, my E Mail is [Leo J Shane@hotmail.com](mailto:Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com) or write to me at [REDACTED]



WHAT DOES A CONNECTICUT COPPER AND A BRITISH EMSWORTH TOKEN HAVE IN COMMON?

(Ray Williams)

The answer is: The Auctori Plebis Token! Although the authors of the Red Book have chosen to include the Auctori Plebis Token in the pre-Federal section, it is actually one of the many tokens in the Conder series, struck in the late 1700s in England.

The Auctori Plebis reverse was made using the same central device hub that was used for the Emsworth DH-10 Conder Token. This can be seen through the use of digital overlays of the reverses of both tokens. The legends of both reverses are different, and a few minor die changes were made, but the central design devices were made from the same hub.

The Auctori Plebis Token also has a stylistic connection to the 1787 Miller 33 Connecticut Coppers. We are all familiar with the CT reverse legend “INDE ET LIB” and you’ll see in the picture that the Auctori Plebis engraver used a slightly modified “INDEP ET LIBER,” along with the same cinquefoil, colon and stop punctuation marks.

When comparing the Auctori Plebis obverse to the Miller 33 obverse, there are a number of similarities. The bust style is almost identical and the legend punctuation is the same.. Instead of the legend reading “AUCTORI CONNEC” it reads “AUCTORI PLEBIS”.

I imagine an English engraver holding a CT Copper in his hand and designing this Auctori Plebis Token based on what he saw. He “plagiarized” the CT design and legend to make his political statement in 1790’s England. I’ve made a place in my collection for an Auctori Plebis and an Emsworth Token, you might consider doing so too.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	\$150	\$250	\$325	\$400	6" x 9"
1/2 page	\$115	\$190	\$250	\$300	6" x 4.5"

NOTE: THESE RATES WILL INCREASE BEGINNING WITH VOLUME 18.

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.



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I am interested in acquiring counterstamped Rosa Americana coins or photos of them. Unusual examples from this series are always of interest, including mis-struck examples. I'm also seeking unusual edge markings on Kentucky pieces. I will pay top prices for the following Connecticut coppers: 21-R, 24-Q, 44-c, 48-X, 83-ii. Syd Martin: sfmartin5@comcast.net or [REDACTED]



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Wanted: Early American communion tokens (for purchase or trade).
Bob Merchant, [REDACTED]

FOR SALE: CD, Special Edition 5.0, High-resolution digital images of my reference collection of Contemporary Counterfeit British & Irish 1/2d & 1/4d, well over 1,000 different specimens. Organized by Major Type, Date and Families where appropriate, with additional material on Major Errors and Die Breaks...\$55 post paid. Registered buyers, if you'd like, will be added to a distribution list that will receive updates by email with images attached of new specimens of major varieties and Families as they are identified. For more information, see

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I have for sale a small number of carefully selected colonial type coins, a fairly large number of Sheldon and Newcomb variety large cents, and an interesting array of numismatic literature. These coins, reference books, and auction catalogues came mostly from our C4/EAC dealer friends, national auctions, and a few cherry-picks. Check it out at www.johndirnbauecoins.com. I encourage you to call me with a trial order to see if you like the high quality, accurate descriptions, and fair prices. Coins sent on approval to C4 and EAC members. I am a long-standing member of ANA, ANS, C4, EAC-571, NBS, and NENA.

John Dirnbauer;

Email: john@johndirnbauecoins.com.

Wanted ORIGINAL Ford Prices Realized Lists for Ford II, Ford III, Ford XV, and Ford XVIII. Willing to pay any reasonable price or trade for other duplicate Ford PRLs I have or other related ephemera like named lists from certain sales.

Please contact Roger Siboni at novacaesarea@yahoo.com.

[illegible]

There are 720 individual pieces on it, ranging from AG to Choic Unc., R-1 to R-8, from under \$50 to over \$10,000 – something for everyone! It will be around 300 pages long, with more than 20 pages of black and white photographs. A copy of this list is ABSOLUTELY FREE to C4 members – if you haven't received one, please write or e-mail for your copy (limited to quantities on hand): Rosa Americana, Ltd. / Jeff Rock; Box 3447; San Diego, CA 92163. e-mail: rosaam ltd@aol.com

For sale or trade. Colonial era coins

Ed Sarrafian, PO Box 864, Glenview, IL 60025

ershye@aol.com

1792 Kleeberg 92B-L10 contemp. counterfeit two reales, nice VF \$750

1752 Spain contemp. counterfeit one real, unlisted date Good-VG \$80

Group lot of three Irish contemp. Counterfeits:: 1/2p 1781-82, VG, one is very crude \$60

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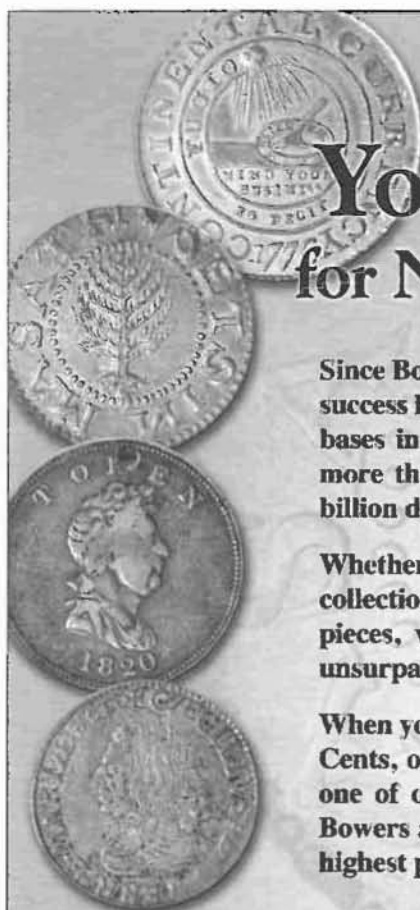
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